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Key Developments

Lapshin Discusses Agrarian Party Platform

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 28 (INTERFAX) — Peasant rallies, whose slogan is "No to selling off Russia's land," have been organized in Russia's villages, Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] and leader of an electoral bloc of the same name, told INTERFAX Thursday.

Lapshin said that rallies will be held in villages and district centers until October 10 and in all regional, territorial and republican centers late to elect delegates to the 2nd All-Russian Villagers' Convention which will be held in Moscow on October 27 (IF Note: The 1st convention which adopted guidelines on land was held in Moscow in 1994).

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's initiative was "dictated by the electoral interests" of his Our Home Is Russia bloc and will be rebuffed by the peasantry, Lapshin said.

He is confident that all the peasants share the APR view that land must not be a commodity and belongs to those who plough it. Land should be redistributed through rent, inherited use for life and other techniques not involving sales.

According to the APR electoral platform, only small garden lots and areas allocated for construction of small houses should make an exception.

Lapshin said that this approach is shared by tens of thousands of Russian private farmers as well as collective farm members. One of them, Vladimir Akatyev, has been included in the party's federal electoral list. Out of the 312 hectares he uses Akatyev owns only 6 hectares and rents the rest but collects the best potato harvest in the Moscow region.

Lapshin said that Akatyev is worried not by the fact that the government does not allow him to own all that area but by the government's obstruction of the peasant's entry onto the market. In Akatyev's view, the gap between the prices of farm produce and of industrial goods needed for agriculture is too wide, and foodstuffs are being imported into Russia on a scale amounting to a foreign intervention against Russia.

Shakhray Outlines PRES Election Platform

LD2809220995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2019 GMT 28 Sep 95

["Exclusive" report No. 39 of 28 September]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister SERGEY SHAKHRAY who also leads the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES) was speaking in an interview with INTERFAX in the wake of last week's party congress which adopted a PRES election program. It proclaims Russia's unity and integrity and its revival as a great power.

INTERFAX: What is behind the party's decision last month to walk out from the Our Home is Russia movement of which it was a co-founder?

SHAKHRAY: This follows an analysis of the political situation or shall we say, determination of some trends of how the situation will evolve in the near term.

In a nutshell, the party arrived at a conclusion to treat the December election and next year's presidential poll as one election campaign. We will see what happens at general elections and make correctives in our actions in the run up to the presidential poll.

The two polls cannot be broken apart. If the campaign is allowed to run its own course, we reckon that up to 66% of seats will be won by left-of-center groups. I'd say from Zyuganov (leader of the Communist party — IF) down to national patriots. This, of course, will not be a monolithic bloc — because of differences in views and positions. But these forces will be certainly united in their attempt to try and get a redistribution of power and property.

Redistribution of power can be achieved through constitutional amendments or the adoption of laws under seemingly good slogans of "parliamentary control of the executive." The right-of-center Yabloko group can be expected to approve such amendments.

This is not my personal view, but the analysis of vote-taking in the State Duma. Together, they can win up to 66% of the vote, that is, get the real chance to make constitutional laws or amendments.

We witnessed two attempts at power redistribution at the end of 1991 and in 1993 with the help of pseudo-legal procedures and constitutional amendments... Property redistribution will follow next. Most opposition forces, as they call themselves, are using precisely these slogans to win power in the absence of civilized open mechanisms of narrowing differences between different financial groups.

What I mean is three or four blocs including the fuel and energy complex, military-industrial, agrarian and banking capital as such. The government does not express the interests of all these blocs. However, it is seeking to offset this imbalance either through the legislature — deputies — or regional elites. Or by "uncivilized" methods.

Therefore, it may be assumed there can be an outbreak of crisis between the president and parliament in January, February or March. Any scenario is possible — no one is going to re-invent the wheel. The main thing for the opposition will be to try to pass decisions taking effect without a presidential endorsement. These can be sent down to the regions for execution. So added up to the political crisis will be a new round of regional crisis in Russia.

Q.: How can your party possibly counter this?

A.: The only way to avert this is to form a strong political center in the Duma, a force capable of ensuring stability and continuity.

All attempts to try to set up a single political center have failed. That is why the president has offered the idea of two centrist blocs opposing each other but not being at the president's beck and call.

Our estimates say the two blocs could win 35% of the vote under the existing system of checks and balances — the State Duma, the president and government. This in itself will be enough to ward off any comeback by the right wing hardliners and to ensure a gradual implementation of economic reforms and continuance of a normal political life.

As the author of the idea, I worked hard to try to persuade the prime minister, the president and potential allies that such a bloc must be formed. That is exactly how we became co-founders of the Our Home is Russia movement which was conceived as a right-of-center bloc. We also contemplated the idea of forming an election alliance with the Yavlinskiy-led Yabloko group — not a single bloc, but some sort of election deals. Regrettably, I have failed to push it through. Our Home started being built not as a movement but a close-end party of high-ranking bureaucrats with its simplistic understanding of authority and ways of holding or developing it.

As a result, what we have is an organization similar to 20 or 30 other organizations failing to incorporate any serious movements or additional forces. All of them were cut off from this center leading to the emergence of something opposite in the end.

Of course, the author of the project does not necessarily have to live in a house he designed given that the developers and tenants have re-designed its interior. I faced a serious political choice which I made by leaving Our Home.

I think the idea of two centrist blocs has flopped. The next Duma, the sixth of its kind, will have to form a centrist coalition of deputies of different movements and blocs. Perhaps, this scenario can still be put in place.

PRES will either go it alone or set a new election alliance to contest the December poll though we have not much time to do so. The party has 64 regional cells with 26 of them being ready to fight elections both organizationally and financially. They have a prior experience in working with the electorate. We have a good experience in electioneering. The party's regional branch was largely behind the election campaign of Sverdlovsk Governor Eduard Rossel. This was one of the four branches which opposed our entry into Our Home. We passed a special resolution to give them a free hand to launch their own election campaign.

My proposal to walk out from Our Home was backed up by 64 regional branches at a recent meeting by the party's federal council. Only three branches abstained.

There is no doubt the party will offer many other unexpected solutions because we have no other way of winning votes.

On the formation of a new election alliance, we will forge it in line with an ideological framework laid down in party papers. It will be an exciting bloc rather than a new combination of Moscow-based armchair parties.

Incidentally, PRES is one of the four parties taking root and developing in the regions.

Party candidates will contest elections both on the PRES list and single-mandate constituencies. I myself will stand in a single-mandate constituency.

We are confident about our ability to drum up 7% of the vote we had two years ago which is about 7 million voters.

We are likely to lose 2%-3% of the electorate but the party's rating will enable it to overcome the 5% barrier needed to qualify for Duma seats. It is set to get on with its professional job there staying away from scandals.

Our priorities include civil code, genuine federalism, budget federalism and tax code. We are going to offer them for a nationwide referendum on our own if other parties refuse to support our decision. Nor will we have any problem with collecting signatures for a referendum on private ownership of the land. Its wording will be clear cut so as to prevent any misinterpretation afterwards. The only question to be asked about the new land code is: Do you accept it not?

We think that a two-thirds of the country's population is keen to own their land property. Apart from farmers, these include employees of almost of all plants and agencies, especially privatized ones. The thing is no serious investment can be expected unless a plant owns the land it stands on.

Unless the farmland is brought on to market, the country's economic reforms will not be implemented and there will be no investment into the farming sector.

PRES is sure that the land question will bring millions of voters to polling stations who will vote not for individual candidates but for legalizing their property.

Reform opponents will not be able to stage a comeback if a new property-owning class comes to the polling stations to receive a popular mandate for their further existence.

Q.: Apart from yourself, who else is on the party list of candidates?

A.: Strictly speaking, only the names of the top three on the list are significant in law. I will not give any names now. Intensive talks are under way with potential candidates.

We think that the outcome of the December poll lies in the hands of 21 Russian regions, which makes up about 55% of the electorate. That is why PRES will focus their effort on leading regions.

As shown by experience, the center's feeling of which way the vote is likely to swing is very often out of line with the electorate's mood on the ground. Only 3% of the electorate associates itself with political parties or blocs. But the remaining 97% have no party leanings, an indication that the existing electoral system is imperfect, to put it mildly. 225 or half of the Duma seats are allocated to political parties and forces which are on the margins of a political struggle which means that a multi-party system is being imposed artificially.

A multi-party system is of course needed, but it would be just right if party candidates are fielded in one-mandate majority constituencies. But it is too late to speak of this now because the parties are entitled to 225 seats.

Almost anyone stands to get elected in the regions regardless of his political leanings. Image-making, good rapport with the mass media and finances will do the trick.

Q.: How did you manage to stay in the mainstream politics all these years? Many with whom you started off have been thrown overboard.

A.: I had my own ups and downs. I think the main thing is to retain one's identity in resolving complicated issues. I have a rather strong character and there is no love lost between me and those on high. But the two traits of my character, integrity and professional skills, have helped me stick to my principles letting me be what I am.

In the five years that I have been in politics, I have often had to change plans of forming a party as an organizational, ideological and political structure. I planned to set up PRES in 1996 but had to speed up the process because of the 1993 events. So the party was set up in Novgorod in October 1993 which means we entered into a political fray somewhat earlier than planned. But there is no going back now.

Q.: You spoke of seeing the December election and next year's presidential poll as one campaign. What do you make of statements saying Boris Yeltsin must step down now that he has done his job and gone down in history?

A.: To begin with, the two polls cannot broken apart given that all parties want to see what happens during the December election before correcting their action ahead of the presidential poll.

Next, the Russian president is really part of history but the question is whether or not he will want to get out of it. If President Yeltsin does really think of seeking re-election, he must try to wield influence on general elections. A presidential candidate cannot stay indifferent as to who wins the December election.

The problem is whether or not Yeltsin has decided to seek re-election. Away from any guesswork, he cannot say yes or no at the movement. If he says no, the administration will just tumble down in the remaining nine months. Diffusion of power has already set in and it can easily degenerate into squabbles if he says no. Nor can he say definitively yes now which creates an atmosphere of uncertainty.

As for myself, I am not going to run in next year's presidential race. There are factors are need for good showing: a strong organizational structure; support by mainstream financial-industrial groups; personal qualities — high prestige plus good rapport with the mass media.

Any run off in the presidential election will cost the contenders billions of dollars or the equivalent sum in rubles. I have no such money and therefore, my involved in the 1996 presidential election will be premature.

On the names of two possible rivals in the run off vote, the mass media suggests that Yeltsin may have to face either Zhirinovskiy or Zyuganov or Yavlinskiy or Chernomyrdin and so on. I will vote for Yeltsin vs Zhirinovskiy or Zyuganov regardless of political sympathies.

I have doubts about a Yeltsin vs. Chernomyrdin combination or Yeltsin vs Yavlinskiy. We will be ready to work with Yavlinskiy he wins the first round of elections.

So, the party's short range priority is to win seats in the Duma and form its own faction there. I hope the party will back up a candidate fielded by democrats and proreformists.

Q.: What do you make of the possibility of rescheduling the presidential election?

A.: The chance of having the mandates of the Duma and president extended was missed now that we have all plunged into the election campaign.

The election machinery is set to motion. Nor it will be possible to stop the presidential poll because of the danger of public outcry.

Q.: Now, could you possibly elaborate on the national security council's job...

A.: It is an interesting institution undergoing two main stages in its life. Set up initially as a strong political body, it was not conceived as such either on the ground or by the mass media. Later the Council turned into what it should be — a consultative body whose decisions are more of recommendations to the president.

It also fulfils expert and consultative functions at the moment. However, it assumed a shroud of secrecy due to the mass media, often seen as a semblance of the politburo of the former Soviet Communist party.

I would like to reassure you that those rumors are blown out of proportion. I have been on the Council for several years and am in charge of one of the interdepartmental commissions and in this capacity, try to get Yeltsin lend an ear to commission projects.

These include regional development, prevention of regional conflicts and salvation of Siberia and the Far East.

I also try to use Council possibilities to coordinate effort by the federal authorities. The Council is the only body whose meetings bring the president, prime minister and leaders of both houses of parliament together. I still think there is a lack of coordination between government branches in the country.

Q.: To go back to regional development projects you mentioned, what is your vision of the future shape of Chechnya?

A.: Sooner or later, there will be general elections there. The new legitimate authorities will sign a power sharing deal with the center. This will provide for the broadest autonomy or sovereignty to Chechnya but within the Russian Federation. There will be no other option.

Q.: Will the rebels be allowed to take part in elections?

A.: Legal conditions for this will emerge if the State Duma declares an amnesty for the rebels and a decommissioning of weapons is complete before elections.

But this will not happen if the center continues to be inactive or acts inconsistently as it happened in the past.

In August 1994 I suggested that it did not matter for Russia how things evolved in Chechnya provided that an end was put to the regional conflict and secessionist trends which accompanied the break up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

One of the journalists asked me if Ruslan Khasbulatov (speaker of the former parliament dissolved in 1993-IF) could be possibly be brought into the process. I said: "Why not if this can help keep Russia in one piece?" I was removed from handling the problem Chechnya after that.

Russia must calmly and consistently implement the military accord before clearing the ground for general elections there. It is important to try to form a parliament which can represent the Chechens in dialogue on power sharing with Moscow. Incidentally, I was one of the co-authors of a similar deal with Tatarstan. By the way, its model was born in Groznyy which is symbolic.

However, Dudayev missed out the chance to his own misfortune and that of his entourage. I personally think the Tatarstan-style deal can be applied to settle relations between Kiev and Simferopol, Tbilisi and Sukhumi and for Yugoslavia.

Delineation of authority is more important than the idea of a federation or confederation of the conflicting sides. And here the center has to clinch its teeth and show restraint.

I also believe that a four-nation conference of Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan must be held urgently to discuss the future of the Caucasus, an idea I spelt out in 1993. The Caucasus is the home of many ethnic groups and all conflicts that break out there have a similar scenario. The region will be plagued by wars unless the four states unite their effort.

Blasphemous as it may be, I do not rule out the idea of a confederation of Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan aimed at resolving four issues — transport, war on crime, energy and possibly environment protection. This will not be a new union state but a union set up to resolve precisely these common problems. And then, I am sure South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Chechnya and other warring regions would live in peace and calm. The thing is regional borders had been redrawn 36 times there during Soviet rule alone.

Q.: Russian police are getting increasingly equipped with foreign-made vehicles and bullet-proof vests, but this does not appear to help towards greater public security. Reports increasingly speak of a merger between the criminal underworld and government structures. What is to be done about this?

A.: I fully agree with this assessment. PRES offers three packages of measures to fight against crime which we intend to put in place. To begin with, a genuine municipal police must be set up and brought under control by the local government rather than the interior ministry.

Only 500,000 policemen of the country's 3 million-odd police force are working on the ground with the remainder doing mainly paper work. Paper work is important but the police are out of touch with the people. The municipal police which can tackle street crime are accountable to the taxpayer. But this, of course, will entail a review of the taxation system to help raise funds for the upkeep of the municipal police.

The second measure is declaration of incomes. I have had a lot of trouble by insisting that government and police officials must declare their incomes to make their financial standing open to the public. I declared my own incomes in 1993 and have done so this year too.

I would like to see income declarations by the leaders of some election blocs. The measure is of enormous significance. I hope the new interior minister has managed to make his department change its attitude both to this and the municipal police.

And finally, legislation. There is the need for a review of the existing criminal code which is too lenient at a time when rising crime becomes problem number one. The criminal code as it is now makes it impossible to fight against crime. The judge is vested with enormous powers to choose anything from one to ten years jail term in the punishments' bracket.

At the same time, the judge and his dependants are too vulnerable. He is often forced to acquit criminals because of the omnipotence by criminal rings.

As one in charge of a recently-established government anti-narcotics commission, I can say it is mind-boggling how illegal drugs trade is turning into a lethal problem for Russia. Because of border transparency, the country turns into a transit point for the shipment of drugs, our economy is suitable for money launderers from any part of the world and our police have no experience in fighting against this evil.

At the same time, the Duma approves a new criminal code halving punishment on drug dealers and lifting a punitive measure such as confiscation of their property.

I think the decision to relieve drug pushers and drug users from any punishment was wrong.

The authorities must be vested with powers to counter the threat stemming from the criminal underworld. There is no need in a state which cannot defend itself.

Q.: What other regions are going to sign a power sharing deal with Moscow and how is this likely to affect election results?

A.: I tackled all of the previous agreements with Russian autonomies. Russian territories and regions also have the right to sign similar agreements. Two agreements are now ready with the Krasnodar territory and Kaliningrad region. Coming up next is a deal with the Sverdlovsk region. I and Sverdlovsk Governor Eduard Rossel will work together over the document. As for possible combinations during elections, I can say that PRES will be canvassing under following slogans — genuine local self-rule, budgetary and taxation and above economic federalism and socially-oriented market economy. All of this will help towards Russia's revival as a great power.

On the coming election, it must be borne in mind that Russia's political structure will be changed by a third on December 17 because of the law on local self-management which came into force on September 1. This provides for elections of regional administrators, heads of local governments and local legislatures within the next six months.

According to available information, most Russian regions plan to hold general and local elections on the same day, December 17. I am sure most of Russian governors will also seek re-election. This will largely change the strategies and tactics by election blocs and alliances.

I am optimistic about the coming elections because our party was behind the local government law and it will strike agreements with city mayors and local governments before the December poll.

As for myself, I could have easily stay put as number 8 on Our Home's electoral list. We are sure Our Home would drum up enough support to win seats in a new Duma which would be an easy way for me to become a deputy. But Our Home denied me the chance of working on the movement's strategy and tactics, something I find unacceptable. Our Home must be different from other blocs. To be so, it has to draft three or four projects thrust at social support and the regions, financial backing of education and science. Nothing short of this will bring support to this bloc of government bureaucrats.

Q.: Could you name the single-mandate constituency where you plan to contest elections?

A.: Four weeks before the 1993 election, I took an unpaid leave to conduct my own election campaign so as to ward off any accusations of using my privileges as a cabinet member. I am planning to do the same this year too. At any rate, I am going to fight the election as an individual not as a government official.

At the moment I am considering proposals from eight Russian regions but I cannot tell you now which one I will chose.

Q.: To go back to the Chechen problem. Exactly what sort of cure did you propose last year?

A.: My own position on the issue is known well enough. I am in favour of a "carrot-and-stick" policy in respect of Dudayev. Chechnya has become a criminally free economic zone or something of a financial pump with hoses being in London, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Moscow. Only a tiny part of the profit made remained in Chechnya with the remainder being siphoned off abroad. So economic pressure or blockade should have been used instead of force.

Members of the Chechen community in Moscow who are loyal to Russia but opposed to Dudayev did work accordingly. A total of 350,000 Chechens live outside the republic.

It could have been possible to try and force Groznyy to sign a power sharing deal with Moscow but the military machine was set to motion instead.

I am sure Russia will stay in one piece. But to achieve this, economic and ideological leverage as well as a union of Orthodox Christians and Moslems must be used, not soldiers. Those who fail to realize this will be pushed off the political stage.

Q.: Apart from Communists, Agrarians, Liberal Democrats, the Congress of Russian Communities, the Yabloko group and Our Home movement, who else is likely to win elections?

A.: The Women of Russia is most likely to overcome the 5% barrier but not as easily as in 1993. And so will PRES or an alliance we are going to form. But not the Gaydar-led Democratic Choice of Russia. I think the Rutskoy-led Derzhava movement can make a success.

Article Highlights Congress of Russian Communities

954F3532A Moscow OGONEK in Russian Sep 95 No 37, p 15

[Unattributed article: "KRO Dossier"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Congress of Russian Communities [KRO]. Leaders—Yuriy Skokov, Aleksandr Lebed, and Dmitriy Rogozin. In favor of "restoration of the rights of the Russian people and peace for all peoples of Russia" and protection of the rights of compatriots abroad, it recognizes "all forms of economic initiative," and considers it necessary to have state support of Russian commodity producers and national capital.

The KRO includes organizations with various orientations—DPR [Democratic Party of Russia], Lyudmila Vartazarova's Workers Socialist Party, Konstantin Zatulin's Entrepreneurs for a New Russia [Predprinimateli za novuyu Rossiyu], certain trade unions, Cossack organizations, etc. An agreement for cooperation has been concluded with the movement Union of Peoples of Russia [Soyuz narodov Rossii]. The KRO, incidentally, has received the blessing of Patriarch Aleksiy II.

The slogans of the Congress are "We will rule according to the law and our conscience!" "Nobody except us!" "Be with us!" The top places on the central list are held by Yuriy Skokov (chairman of the Federation of Commodity Producers), Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, Sergey Glazyev (DPR leader), and Dmitriy Rogozin (chairman of the KRO executive committee).

According to the statements of leaders of the Congress, it has branches operating in 86 Russian regions. Some 30 percent of the local "cells" have been created on the basis of the DPR. Trade unions have also played a large role in the establishment of regional KRO organizations. The KRO central list includes a trade union boss, Vasiliy Romanov, who, as it says in Congress documents, "represents the interests of several dozen of the largest regional trade union associations." In the words of General Lebed, reliance on regional leaders is the basis of the election tactics and strategy of the KRO.

Assessments by KRO leaders of their possibilities in the forthcoming elections range from 15 to 20 percent of the votes. The predictions of independent experts are 10-12 percent.

It is obvious that a large part of the KRO electorate is made up of the regional elite, military servicemen, and so-called protest votes—people who will be voting mainly against the authorities.

The main "money people" of the KRO are Yuriy Skokov with his Federation of Commodity Producers and Konstantin Zatulin with the Entrepreneurs for a New Russia. Members of these organizations will foot most of the bill for the Congress election campaign. According to certain information, the KRO is supported by Kredobank and Unikombank.

Realists' Petrov Calls For 'New Confederation'

LD2709150095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1322 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 27 (INTERFAX) — Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan could make up the core of a new confederation of independent states, leader of the Realists' Union Yuriy Petrov told INTERFAX in Moscow Wednesday. Petrov is a leader of the Rybkin election bloc.

In his words, "Belarus could be a link to unite former Soviet republics, primarily the Slav states and Kazakhstan, on new principles."

They could joined later by Transcaucasian and Central Asian countries, said Petrov.

In his opinion, the new confederation must not infringe political sovereignty of its member-states. "However, they, including Russia, will have to sacrifice some rights for the sake of a compromise," said Petrov.

KRO Blames Lipitskiy for Stolen Signature Sheets

954F3566A Novosibirsk SOVETSKAYA SIBIR
in Russian 22 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by A. Grigoryev under the "Incidents" rubric: "Lists Taken: Greetings From Lipitskiy?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 19 September, speaking at the scheduled traditional press conference at Journalists House, State Duma Deputy Vasiliy Lipitskiy literally shocked the gathering with an unusual statement. We will quote it verbatim. "Literally an hour ago, representatives of the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] came to our headquarters and said that one of their signature collectors had been attacked. Signature sheets were taken away from him and torn up. The attackers said that they were from Lipitskiy's team. I and my colleagues unequivocally qualify this fact as a provocation. Naturally, this is completely outside the boundaries of the methods of political struggle we have ever used or would consider using. We will undoubtedly make an effort to sort out this situation. I would like to ask everyone who has any information whatsoever on the source of this provocation to make it public."

V.S. Lipitskiy's statement, unfortunately, confirms analysts' predictions that any means will be used in the course of the election campaign, including underhanded ones. What political dividends could be reaped from this provocation? It varies. For instance, public sympathy for the "robbed signature collectors." We usually empathize with the underdog.

Electoral Commission Reports 60 Blocs Registered

LD2809185295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1713 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — The number of election blocs registered in Russia by now has reached 60, according to the Russian Central Election Commission which held a session on Thursday [28 September].

At the session, the Commission registered the "Transformation of the Fatherland" bloc, embracing the all-Russian public organisation bearing the same name which was recently founded by Sverdlovsk regional governor Eduard Rossel, the Free Democratic Party of Russia, and the All-Russian Party for Human Safety.

The commission also continued registering lists of candidates nominated by election blocs. The Party for Russian Unity and Accord leaded by vice-premier Sergey Shakhray submitted a list consisting of 138 candidates.

The commission rejected a list of the Party of Popular Capital founded by Sergey Mavrodi, a scandalous architect of a pyramid scheme and lawmaker, on the grounds that the top three on the list were Mavrodi himself, his wife Yelena, and brother Vyacheslav.

Nikolay Ryabov, the commission's chairman, said that such connection between candidates was completely inadmissible. He also said he was going to report to the Ministry of Justice that Mavrodi offered payment for joining the bloc.

The commission also issued a statement urging bloc leaders to prevent the distortion of information about candidates. The document was prompted by reports that some lists of candidates from one-seat constituencies contained "false data."

The statement reminded that those releasing false information on candidates were subject to criminal and administrative sanctions.

Regional Activities

Agrarians Urge Union of 'Small, Haphazard Left Parties'

LD2209144095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1414 GMT 22 Sep 95

[By Vladimir Khodiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IRKUTSK, September 22 (ITAR-TASS) — Leader of the Russian Agrarian Party and State Duma member Mikhail Lapshin is puzzled about the number of "small, haphazard" left parties and election blocs.

"We will try to persuade small, haphazard left parties, whose number has reached 15, to unite; otherwise we will not achieve the expected success in the elections," Lapshin told reporter on the final day of a three day visit to the Irkutsk region (Siberia) where he met future voters and activists of his group.

At his estimate, 55 per cent of the country's electorate will support the left. He also forecasted that his party, the Communists, the Zhirinovskiy-led Liberal democrats, Premier Chernomyrdin's Our Home Is Russia, and The Women of Russia bloc will win the December 17 State Duma election.

As for State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin's bloc, Lapshin thinks that odds are against it.

Shumeyko: 'Duma Must Represent Interests of All Russia'

LD2209215995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2047 GMT 22 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEKATERINBURG, September 23 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian State Duma must represent interests of all Russia and not party groups and movements, Chairman of the Russian Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko said on Friday at a meeting with deputies of the Sverdlovsk Regional Duma. Shumeyko arrived in Yekaterinburg to discuss mechanisms of interaction between federal and regional legislative bodies and the role of federation subjects in the formation of the Russian Federal Assembly.

Much more people have more confidence in regional authorities that in central power bodies, Shumeyko said referring to public opinion polls. That is why, he thinks, during the elections to the State Duma people are more likely to vote for their fellow countrymen than for candidates from numerous but unpopular parties. It may help to establish a strong faction of independent non-party deputies in the Duma who will represent interests of regions and not group interests. According to Shumeyko, this point of view was voiced by participants in the Moscow conference on the role of legislative and executive bodies of federation subjects in the formation of the lower house of the Russian parliament.

The state legislative authority can be considered "only as a combination of federal and regional authorities, that is as a legislative vertical line throughout the whole of Russia but not solely as a Federal Assembly in the capital", he said. Hence, federation subjects are far from being indifferent as to what legislative potential and political orientation the new State Duma will acqiure, he stressed. The federal authority must be responsible for each of the regions and regions, in turn, must realise their responsibility for the fate of the whole federation.

Shumeyko Hails Independent Candidates From Regions

MK2909083695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Viktorova: "Senate Speaker Campaigns for 'Independent' Candidates. In the Future, Though, He Dreams of a 'Firm Bloc of Party Members and Nonparty People'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At yesterday's "conference-seminar" on "The Role and Participation of Russian Federation Components in Forming the Federal Legislature" (with mostly mid-level provincial administration leaders attending — committee heads, deputy heads, etc., as well as officers of local electoral commissions), Senate Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko, in his capacity as chairman, repeatedly called for "active electoral support to be given not to party members, but to 'independent' candidates representing the provinces." Eduard Rossel, recent winner of the gubernatorial election in Sverdlovsk Oblast, was presented to the audience as a person "capable of uniting representatives from the provinces." As he was given the floor, the "father of the Urals Republic" invited all those present to the congress of his "Transformation of the Homeland" movement, scheduled for Saturday [23 September]. Vladimir Shumeyko was prompt to assure the audience that "having consulted with Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov" (sitting close to him in the presidium), he "came to the conclusion" that Rossel's statement was "regular information on events held elsewhere, not publicity."

The Central Electoral Commission [CEC] chairman said in his turn that the number of blocs registered to date to contest the election "has almost reached 50 and will probably soon exceed that number." According to his information, the number of would-be candidates is 15,000. Mr. Ryabov assessed the president's decision to separate in time the parliamentary and gubernatorial elections as "undoubtedly beneficial." This, in his opinion, will allow voters "to concentrate on each of the elections separately, not getting confused in the electoral polyphony nor forming who knows what sort of bodies." Even so, Mr. Ryabov fears, voters will find it "hard to make their choice." The number one task facing the local authorities and electoral commissions was identified by the CEC chairman as "working with the voters so that they will actively and legibly apply their signatures."

Vladimir Shumeyko also aired his concern that the people "will be confused by the bird-colony screams and background noises produced by dozens of parties, hardly bearable for the voters." He urged provincial authorities "to orient" voters, "actively cracking down on dishonest methods of discrediting rivals, allowing no social, ethnic, religious, or great-power chauvinism." He also advised them "to open people's eyes to the parties that want to emerge by offering sweeping criticism of the authorities."

Speaking for the "independent" deputies, Vladimir Shumeyko, however, did not rule out the possibility that upon finding themselves in the Duma, they will join "a firm bloc of party members and nonparty people," which will "unite all supporters of reforms in this country."

By the way, Eduard Rossel, when asked by reporters about his attitude to Chernomyrdin's bloc, replied that the only thing he objected to was "the formulating principle of 'Russia Is Our Home' — from the top down to the bottom." As for the bloc's guidelines, these are "by and large judged to be correct" by him.

'Embittered' Bryansk Voters Back General Lebed

LD2809195195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1835 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BRYANSK, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — General Aleksandr Lebed, former commander of the Russian 14th Army in Moldova's Trans-Dniester Region, proved to enjoy the highest popular backing in Russia's south-western Bryansk region. Lebed is among the leaders of the right-wing Congress of Russian Communities running for elections to the federal legislature.

In early August, the information and law department of the regional administration published a 430-item questionary in all local editions aiming to fix political attitudes of residents in the light of December elections.

The general who led the list of 20 most prominent Russian politicians was followed with a gap of one point by former Welfare Minister Ella Pamfilova and distinguished eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov. Next to them were mentioned communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, moderate reformer leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and centrist lawmaker Irina Khakamada.

Noteworthy, about a half of residents (47 per cent) questioned during the poll characterised their pre-election mood as "embittered," and another 12 per cent said it was "critical."

In a platform for the elections, the Congress of Russian Communities pledged to strengthen the Russian state, take a strong line against crime and "shadow economy", restore Russia's position of a leading world power, and unite all Russians. The bloc also vowed to change much-criticised tax and customs laws and protect Russian manufacturers.

Election Guidelines

Deputy: Forced Registration of Electoral Blocs 'Invalid'

MK2609143195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov: "Vladimir Lepekhin Deems Registration of Electoral Blocs Unlawful. Respective Actions Have Been Filed With Supreme and Constitutional Courts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Lepekhin, chairman of the "Union of Student Councils of Russia" (USCR), leader of the "Turning-Point Generation" electoral bloc, and a State Duma deputy, claimed yesterday that the registration of electoral blocs with the Central Electoral Commission [CEC] for the most part violates legislation. Mr. Lepekhin holds that under Article 18 of the law "On Public Associations," every public association, even those enjoying no rights as a legal entity (it is to this category that electoral blocs are assigned by Mr. Lepekhin) is obliged to have a statute, among other things. Pointing out that not a single bloc has provided itself with a statute, the deputy argued that "the registration of all electoral blocs is invalid in view of the absence of the subject." In this connection, Vladimir Lepekhin, on behalf of the USCR, has filed a case with the Supreme Court "on the annulment of all decisions by the CEC on registering electoral blocs." Moreover, the USCR intends to appeal to the Constitutional Court, "demanding that Part 3 of Article 33 of the federal law 'On the Election of State Duma Deputies" be annulled, as providing a formal opportunity for registering nonexistent electoral blocs." Mr. Lepekhin believes this provision "to lead in practice to the violation of Article 19 of the Russian Federation Constitution, which guarantees equal rights and freedoms to all citizens, irrespective of the circumstances, and of their membership in a public association, in particular."

According to Vladimir Lepekhin, in the event of the USCR's suit being upheld by judicial authorities, all electoral blocs will once again have to go over holding their congresses, passing statutes, drafting their federal lists, and submitting them to the CEC. The signatures already collected will naturally be annulled. Mr. Lepekhin is far from wishing to jeopardize any particular bloc, and, therefore, the case was filed a month prior to the deadline set for collecting signatures, i.e. a viable bloc, "with professionals in its ranks," able to estimate the true worth of Vladimir Lepekhin's juridical move, still has every chance to participate in the run-up to the elections.

In addition to restoring legal justice, the USCR's suit should reduce the number of participants involved in the electoral race and enhance the role and significance of the court.

Time will show whether the Supreme and the Constitutional Court will satisfy the USCR's suit, although Vladimir Lepekhin has already succeeded in producing a due effect. First, almost out of nothing, he has sparked a scandal, which is always an asset in itself during an election campaign. Second, the deputy's design could well rack the nerves of other electoral blocs. Interestingly, more than half the audience attending Vladimir Lepekhin's press conference was made up not of journalists, but of the representatives of competing blocs.

Forecasts & Commentary

Article Attacks 'Alien' Chernomyrdin, NDR

MM2809104895 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Sep 95 p 5

[Article by Konstantin Molchanov under the "Portrait Through Voter's Eyes" rubric: "We Have Long Been Alien to Him "]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] During the three years of his premiership, Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin has contrived not to have a single argument with the president, has always agreed with him about everything, and has not once departed one iota from the "general line." He clearly belongs to the category of our fellow-countrymen for whom a career and an elevated position in society are the most important values in life. It is very difficult to see what he really thinks and what in fact are his views and convictions, if indeed he has any at all.

After he became prime minister, Viktor Stepanovich often repeated the statement: "We must work, get on with things," emphasizing that he is not getting involved in politics. Let others, he said, get involved in this dirty business, but in the meantime somebody has to be in charge. Maybe he was thereby justifying himself to his own conscience (if, of course, it was troubling him) and really did hope to remain untainted and on the sidelines.

Only all this is untrue. First, as concerns "being in charge." Is Chernomyrdin in charge of the government? In my opinion, he is not. Chubays is the "sacred cow" there, God forbid that anyone should touch him, and he acts completely autonomously. Soskovets deputizes for the president more often than for the premier and carries out various "special" missions for him; that is, he is also fairly autonomous. Grachev and the other power ministers together with Kozyrev take their orders directly from the president. To whom does Chernomyrdin actually give orders in the government? Maybe the sector ministers like Shafranik? On the other hand, Shakhray has walked out of what appears to be the government electoral bloc, and another vice premier, Zaveryukha, and Agriculture Minister Nazarchuk are acting in the election campaign as political opponents of the premier and his bloc. So what is the result of this?

In Chernomyrdin's government you cannot see or feel any unity or accord, a common conception of aims and tasks, or even any basic mutual respect. Just as you simply cannot speak of the present Russian Government as a team of like-minded people, so you cannot speak of Mr. Chernomyrdin's leadership in this supposed team. Regarding how effectively the government influences the economy and the situation in the country, its influence is, in my opinion, close to zero. Whatever declarations the government might make, events in the country are, so to speak, being allowed to drift, things are taking their own course.

Chernomyrdin's government is incapable of solving a single problem — neither inflation, price increases, unemployment, nonpayments, nor the rise in crime. It is even incapable of overcoming corruption in its own ranks. So is not Viktor Stepanovich purely a figurehead for this government?

Second, as concerns "noninterference in politics." It has to be admitted that he has managed to remain in the shadows and avoid the "glare" of many recent dramatic events. You only have to take the example of the bombardment of parliament. It is considered that Yeltsin, Grachev, Rutskoy, and Khasbulatov were to blame. And Chernomyrdin seemingly had nothing to do with it. But this is not and cannot be true. He was fully informed about everything and played a direct part in it; it is even possible that he was in charge of some actions. I read the documents referring to the events of September and October 1993. They include a personal appeal to Chernomyrdin from the leaders of the Federation components requesting, indeed demanding, that he stop and prevent the bloodshed.

"Viktor Stepanovich! We saw women and children there; there are some 500 to 600 corpses there. Stop this slaughter!" Ruslan Aushev, for example, appealed at a government session involving regional leaders at the Kremlin 4 October.

Chernomyrdin personally did nothing to stop the slaughter. Neither then nor later did he condemn it, and he did not resign in protest. So does this mean that he was in agreement with it? Of course he was.

"Viktor Stepanovich is calm, bearing up well," Gaydar wrote a year later in his notes about those days. "He is asking for cash from the Central Bank in case the government building is blockaded...."

We ordinary citizens do not, of course, know much about what happened during those days at the Kremlin: who panicked and was already working out where to flee in the event of a rebel victory; who had calmly prepared their escape routes; who had gotten blind drunk; and who had given the desperate orders for the tanks to fire. We will find out all about this some time, as we in time found out the Kremlin secrets of Stalin and Khrushchev. I do not think that Premier Chernomyrdin's role in the October events will appear salubrious to us and our descendants.

Exactly the same goes for Chechnya. The public once more pins the blame for everything on Dudayev, Yeltsin, and Grachev (which, of course, serves them right), but Chernomyrdin's culpability is somehow not even mentioned, especially as at a certain point he distanced himself altogether from the violent actions and emerged as a real peacemaker. An absolute dove. We should not be so naive. Could the prime minister, as a member of the Security Council, where, strictly speaking, the decision to send the troops into Chechnya last December was made, not be involved in making this decision? No, this is not possible. Even if it was not his idea in the first place, all of this happened with his tacit agreement.

As far as Budennovsk is concerned, the impression made by his rescue attempt disappeared long ago. This whole episode is now seen in a rather different light. The war is certainly not going to end, people continue to perish, the negotiations have gotten bogged down, and the bandit Basayev remains uncaught and unpunished, which is humiliating for Russia. To this day I do not understand why everybody was so enthusiastic about Chernomyrdin's actions back then; after all this was no great feat and he was no hero (he was under no threat in his Moscow office); he was simply doing his duty, carrying out his obligations. But why was all this, so to speak, broadcast live, why were journalists sitting day and night in his office with microphones and television cameras? This, I think, is explicable: Viktor Stepanovich wanted to protect himself first and foremost against possible presidential disapproval! It was here that he showed himself to be a rather cunning politician for the first time. However the operation to free the hostages ended back then, it would be difficult make any complaints against him. Incidentally, in the opinion of the military who participated in the ill-fated operation, it was actually Chernomyrdin's intervention in the very final stages that prevented them from capturing Basayev.

Viktor Stepanovich has once again recently distanced himself from Chechen affairs, having lost interest in them and handed back the initiative to those who rely more on force, while he himself tries to avoid touching upon this vexed question altogether.

But you and I — the voters — should realize that this man is fully responsible for everything that has happened in the country since 1992 and that he should share full responsibility with the president for the blood of our compatriots that has been spilt during these years, for the absolute impoverishment of the people, and for the impudent and blatant plundering of Russia's wealth.

From time to time rumors concerning Chernomyrdin arise, sometimes in connection with "Gazprom" — which is his pride and joy — and sometimes in connection with shares in other major industrial-raw materials and financial companies. He is sometimes even referred to as one of Russia's richest people. Viktor Stepanovich himself always rejects these rumors. He simply rejects them, and that is that. One State Duma deputy told me of how they pestered him about this when he finally showed up at one of their sessions, after being invited to do so for a long time. They put the question to him directly and this was his reply: "Well, it's actually awkward for me to talk about this." That was all he said in reply. It is so obviously untrue, he said. Excuse me, but why is this so obvious? Chernomyrdin and other Russian statesmen hardly present us with regular statements of their incomes. We ordinary voters hardly know what they own or what bank accounts they have. We know nothing about this, but it is not hard to guess.

The other day, Duma Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin made public scandalous facts about the well-known "Vlastelina" private company. It emerges that very high-ranking bureaucrats were its clients. One, it seems, "borrowed" 200 billion rubles and failed to return them. These revelations make your hair stand on end. But in our society such things fade away "like smoke or the morning mist." No one batted an eyelid. Let us assume that all this is calumny and slander, then it is all the more essential to investigate everything in a serious and objective manner and to report the findings to the public. But what happens here? Soskovets and Shumeyko make this really lazy and condescending statement through their press secretaries in the usual, established manner: "Neither I nor members of my family have anything to do with this." Take it or leave it. But the point is not only that enormous sums are involved, but that the Russian leadership's honor is at stake.

I do not wish to start assessing other people's assets — this is deeply offensive to me. But I know full well that the most favorable conditions have been created in society for a small group of people constituting a political and business elite to make colossal profits. No one will convince me that high-ranking state bureaucrats remain disinterested in these conditions as they did under socialism and work exclusively for an enhanced salary. I simply do not believe them.

The true nature of the transformation that Chernomyrdin and others like him have gone through is by no means that he is a communist who has become a democrat (he was neither a genuine communist nor has he become a democrat). It is a transformation of another kind — not an ideological one but a transformation of his material status. It is the transformation of a former state official — granted, he was a minister — into a property owner, of a bureaucrat into a capitalist. Having acquired a taste and feeling for private ownership, they became different people. They are now fighting for private ownership including that of land, for which Chernomyrdin has also recently begun to fight. But not at all for democracy, freedoms, human rights, and other intellectual rubbish.

Incidentally, many former absolutely Soviet leaders and directors have undergone such a transformation. Now they are genuine proprietors, owners of enterprises and whole sectors, of which, by common agreement, the oil and gas sector is the richest and most prosperous in the country — a situation achieved without a doubt with assistance from Viktor Stepanovich. What do they need ideas for! It really is awkward to talk about this at present.

It cannot be ruled out that this was the main factor motivating Chernomyrdin — who until now has shunned politics — to go down this slippery path. Capital and property need political backing. God forbid that the communists come to power and organize a deprivatization program!

But Viktor Stepanovich is not such a wonderful politician — he is, you could say, a novice. The leaders of the parties and movements, battle-hardened in the opposition's struggle against the regime over the years, are much more experienced and skilled than he is. Chernomyrdin began his political activities with a flourish, but nevertheless used the same old economic administrative, command methods. While the core of activists of the communist and agrarian parties have formed over the years from below and are already tried and tested in their activities, activists were drafted into Chernomyrdin's party by the general mobilization of bureaucrats. While the programs of these and a number of other parties have, so to speak, been brought forth in struggle and adjustments have been made to them in accordance with experience, at the moment when the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] bloc was formed Viktor Stepanovich had no program whatsoever. It seems he still does not have one now, and his statement at one of the latest NDR meetings that "socialism will no longer exist in Russia and capitalism is also a stage through which we have passed" yet again confirms this. What NDR intends to create in Russia remains unclear. I personally have not grasped what it intends to do.

The whole artificiality and fragility of the NDR structure is reflected in the federal list of candidate deputies submitted by it. It is not an established, tried and tested group of like-minded people well-known to the public in this particular configuration, like the Communist Party of the Russian Federation or the Agrarian Party lists, but a completely random and universally unexpected collection of names which until now have shared no association with one another. It is even known that they tried to persuade people to join and evidently made some promises.

But the danger of such a random association is obvious. If something dramatic takes place in Chechnya — and not necessarily in Chechnya — in which the government is implicated and for which it is to blame, a sense of honor will force Nikita Mikhalkov to immediately leave the bloc. It is hard to know what to say about General Rokhlin, but if Viktor Stepanovich thinks that the public regards this man as a hero of the Chechen war, he is deeply mistaken. There are no heroes whatsoever in this war, only victims — on both sides; this is a particular feature of this war differentiating it from others.

In short, it seems to me that these are completely the wrong people to be prepared to march with Chernomyrdin to the end and share the responsibility with him for events. I appreciate Nikita Mikhalkov very highly as a director and actor, and I also know that he is very attractive to women. But the cinema and women are neither here nor there. What is important is politics. And judging by Nikita Sergeyevich's latest pronouncements, he presently holds monarchist views. How, in that case, should I as a voter understand their alliance with Chernomyrdin?

In general, Viktor Stepanovich has basically relied during the formation of his bloc on the prominence of his position and the materials and technical and organizational capacity which his post as premier gives him. All this is fine when you are establishing a concern. But the leadership of a political organization requires a little more, for example such trifles as your own original ideas and a commanding personality as such. In this respect in particular he is somewhat weak. Whether it is his one-sided and purely technical education or his lack of political experience and culture which is to blame, there are few Russian politicians today who express themselves so poorly and unintelligibly as Chernomyrdin. He is going to find it hard going when it comes to public debates!

Relations between Viktor Stepanovich and Boris Nikolayevich do not appear to be uncomplicated today. You get the impression that Yeltsin is himself not happy that he gave him his blessing to form the "party of power" — Chernomyrdin set about this with such enthusiasm and was so determined that the president found it impossible to keep up with him. After all, the president is spending more and more time undergoing medical treatment and on vacation while Chernomyrdin is traveling about the country: Figaro's here, Figaro's there — he gets everywhere, participates in everything, showing as he does so that he is more mobile and has greater stamina than the president.

Yeltsin does not like this, and everybody knows about his political jealousy; it is dangerous to be more active and popular than the president in Russia. He will withdraw his support. If he has not already done so. The unexpectedly pessimistic and even rather indifferent assessment of NDR's chances in the elections which he gave at his most recent press conference did, I think, take many people aback, including Chernomyrdin himself. Now many regional NDR activists are beginning to think: Should we support the premier's bloc so enthusiastically when the president himself speaks so sourly about it and predicts that it will get no more than 8-12 percent of votes?

But what if it does not get even 8 percent? We ordinary voters who have no connection with NDR, "Gazprom," the nomenklatura, industrial-financial groupings, and Viktor Stepanovich's nearest and dearest have no reason to vote for it. Workers who have not received any wages since the spring and those who have no job at all, peasants who have been driven to desperation, soldiers fighting in Chechnya and lying in military hospitals, their parents and sweethearts, refugees and forced migrants, slandered war veterans and humiliated pensioners, defrauded investors, teachers and doctors who cannot make ends meet, women with even one child, students without a future, officers left without a roof over their heads, the intelligentsia which is needed by nobody, and so on and so forth.

This Chernomyrdin is alien to us although his forebears were from the common people. And we have been alien to him for a long time now. He is in the Kremlin while we....

Let us well and truly go our own ways.

Lebed Calls For Russian Unity, 'Think Tank' Creation

LD2509220195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2135 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Sept 25 (INTERFAX) — The electorate will either make a random choice or never bother to go to the polling stations, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, former 14th Army commander and now a leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, said Monday.

He told a round table discussion on "Moral Fundamentals of State-building" that the average voter will find it difficult to distinguish the 70 electoral platforms which he described as carbon copies of one another. Voters will choose familiar names, he said.

Lebed said that the funny thing was that none of the scores of electoral blocs expects to win less than 150 seats and all of them seem to be headed by Caesars or Napoleons.

He called for unity of the entire Russian people. Historically "we were beaten as long as every prince was thinking of himself and his son," Lebed remarked.

Lebed also called for the setting up of a powerful think tank which could include people having broad political and other experience. He did not rule out that priests, servicemen, teachers and other professionals could sit on the think tank.

KRO's Lebed Expects 15 Percent Electorate Support

LD2809183195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 28 (INTERFAX) — At least 15% of the electorate will support the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO] in the coming Duma elections, General Aleksander Lebed told INTERFAX Thursday.

Lebed, a leading figure in the Congress, said it would complete the collection of the 200,000 voter signatures necessary to participate in the elections by October 1.

On the chances of Chernomyrdin's Our Home is Russia coalition the general said it will be backed by 11% of voters at best.

In his opinion 60% of the seats in the future parliament will belong to Communists, Agrarians, Liberal Democrats, Women of Russia and the Congress of Russian Communities.

Gaydar Fears Election Victory by 'Extreme Radicals'

LD2609134095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1259 GMT 26 Sep 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 26 (ITAR-TASS) — The factions of communists and patriots stand "a highly realistic chance" of winning the forthcoming parliamentary elections, said leader of the "Russia's democratic choice" party Yegor Gaydar at a news conference held by leaders of the bloc "Russia's democratic choice-united democrats" today.

Gaydar believes that the democrats might improve their chances to win if they manage to attract young people to take part in the vote. Gaydar pointed out that both representatives of "Russia's democratic choice" and " Yabloko" factions realise now that "against the background of rivaling democrats the victory might be won by extreme radicals. Gaydar expressed the hope that "Russia's democratic choice" and "Yabloko" would find a common language when nominating their candidates from majority constituencies.

The existence of a big number of electoral blocs and other electoral associations is the evidence of "immaturity of Russia's political system and someone's deliberate scheming to disorientate voters," Gaydar said. Some political forces want as many "minor democratic players" as possible who will not be able to overcome the mandatory 5 per cent barrier.

Gaydar did not rule out a possibility of a government crisis should the Duma discuss the problem of confidence in the government at its autumn session.

For his part, chairman of the party of social democrats Aleksandr Yakovlev pointed out that the people belonging to the " Russia's democratic choice — allied democrats" bloc are united by the realisation of the fate of democracy. "This is Russia's main achievement and its our duty to defend and foster it," Yakovlev said.

Grachev Seen Exploiting Elections To Extract Concessions

MM2709165495 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 27 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Nikanorov: "The President's Heavy Tramp. Grachev Announces Personal List of Political Hits"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pavel Grachev's silence is the guarantee of the Motherland's calm. But if the defense minister emits a noise, its shock wave will baffle not only Moscow, but also the far abroad. Experts have been wondering for the past 24 hours if Mr. Grachev has eaten something he shouldn't have. For he is promising nothing short of "strong moves" on the part of the Russian Federation president.

The first move would be "to set up joint Russian-NATO peacekeeping forces (the head of the Russian Federation is to announce this proposal at the United Nations by agreement with his defense and foreign ministers), with NATO and Russian generals taking turns in commanding them." The second is the presidential edict on supplying the Defense Ministry with free gas, electricity, and so forth.

As for the peacekeeping, Grachev's guys have already demonstrated their brilliant skill in drawing up the plan for the Chechen blitzkrieg. So if someone in NATO really wants to finish off the Balkan Slavs, he will not find a better ally than the Russian minister.

As for the freeloading — there is nothing unexpected about it either. The army's stock of energy reserves that could be pushed under the counter appears to have been depleted, so it needs replenishment. Now, apart from semi-free Mercedes, they are going to have unmeasured electricity and other "utilities" gratis. It turns out, however, that the Fuel and Energy Ministry has no idea about the edict which is being secretly drawn up by Oleg Soskovets and the defense minister, allegedly with the consent of the vacationing president.

Judging from the defense minister's speeches, on the eve of elections he has the feeling he is quite an attractive personality and has even announced a competition of sorts for the right to be called his favorite politician. Looking with his clear eyes at our poverty-stricken country, Pavel Sergeyevich [Grachev] says modestly that he needs just 17-18 trillion rubles [R] on top of the budget (not counting what he will have for free). The president and Viktor Chernomyrdin have allegedly promised him that sum. Other "small potatoes" — such as Shumeyko and all those political leaders — promise R12 trillion at best and R6-8 trillion at worst. It is probably hard to guess whom the eternal defense minister likes best. One cannot but feel bitter.

Daily Views Elections' Effect on Economic Policy

MM2809151995 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 2

[Article by Andrey Kolesnikov under the "Trend" rubric: "Politics Once Again Wrecks Economy. Danger of Inflationary Decisions Growing Every Day"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The policy of financial stabilization is once again, for the umpteenth time, coming up against political force majeure. Amid the election preparations the attempt to draw up a noninflationary budget with an optimum deficit level is agonizing and virtually doomed to failure from the outset.

Deputies are ready to force through the idea of funding the state budget through Central Bank of Russia [CBR] loans so that they can go to the elections with a sense of having done their inflationary duty: They say, dear voter, there is not enough money in the economy, hence all the problems; but we will ensure that there is a lot of money — then we will really start to live.

Suppose the ordinary voter is "helped" in this strange way. It is also necessary to worry about the Russian commodity producer; you never know, Yuriy Skokov may become premier and what would we say to him then.... Hence the desire in accordance with topsy-turvy logic (we have to join the World Trade Organization) to raise customs duties on food even higher. Whereas the first wave of increases in border tariffs was quite justified and only eliminated discrimination against Russian producers, a further hike may entail an upsurge in inflation.

Both the above examples illustrate the purely political approach to resolving economic problems. There is also the geopolitical approach.

It is politically advantageous (let us leave aside for now the moral and ethical aspect — it is absolutely essential to help the poor and outcasts) to verbally express concern for ethnic Russians in the near abroad. In the government's interpretation, this regrettably took the form of a poorly justified attack on the budget: It was decided to increase the size of what is effectively a soft, not to say nonrepayable, loan to the CIS countries from 200 to 700 billion rubles. It is a question of reviving a policy that has frequently come in for criticism and was exemplified by former CBR Chairman Gerashchenko. Late last year it was ostensibly decided to abandon the provision of technical loans for the CIS countries. But nothing of the sort. The states of the near abroad are a sphere of Russian geopolitical interests. Elections are being held again, and once again the problem of the Russian-speaking population arises, etc. You cannot make savings at the expense of ethnic Russians. But nor can you speculate on this political problem, never mind throw money down the drain. Another quite shocking argument is that we must provide orders for CIS enterprises employing Russians. You might think that Russia is capable of providing orders for its own plants, which by no means employ citizens of New Zealand.... Why in that case not give loans to Estonia, for instance, where many Russians work in industry?

Politics is ruining the economy, twisting its arm, and putting off a glorious future of prosperity to some dim, distant time. The most important point is that now any statement on the part of prominent politicians and economic managers — even if it is not subsequently carried out — aimed at handing out additional money to anyone or for anything may fuel inflationary expectations out of all proportion and inflate costs, not to mention the direct impact of those statements which are put into effect, unleashing very tangible "monetary" inflation.

As always, the elections have "happened" at a very inopportune time. Particularly now when it is becoming more or less obvious who will win a majority in the new State Duma. The government might not have much time left to sow what is good, kind, and eternal. It is pointless to seek political salvation in inflationary measures, the votes are already distributed. And if the "Reds" come along, they can easily ascribe the economic collapse to their predecessors' policies. Is it not better to pursue the only economic policy possible in the present circumstances? By imagining just for a minute there were no elections....

Poll Shows Increase in CPRF's Popularity

MM2709164095 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 32, 27 Sep-3 Oct 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Forward Toward a Pink Renaissance?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The monthly study of the popularity of electoral associations conducted by the Center for Strategic Analysis and Forecasting has indicated the following:

1. The popularity of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] continues to climb. This is based on enhanced organizational work; a successful (compared with the other associations) start to the collection of signatures; stronger financial potential; and the electorate's continued drift in the "pink-nostalgic" and opposition directions.

2. The popularity of "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] will decline. This is down to the association's electoral list, which could have been much better; the departure of S. Shakhray, followed by the readiness of a number of regional leaders to do likewise; the not overly successful actions to shape its image; and the Russian Federation president's none too high assessment of NDR's prospects.

3. "Yabloko" is going up. Despite Yu. Boldyrev's departure, there remains the rather high personal popularity of G. Yavlinskiy; stable preferences among part of the urban intelligentsia; a further weakening of the other democratic forces; and the alliance with the mining and metallurgical trade union. The latter removes fears over the collection of signatures.

4. The Congress of Russian Communities has edged up somewhat on its August popularity by solving some organizational matters, with I. Rybkin's bloc doing likewise, although this rise is not very convincing so far.

In addition to the CPRF the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], the Agrarian Party of Russia, and "Women of Russia" are keeping their stable positions. Looking up are the PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] and the OPPR-FNPR [Russian United Industrial Party-Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia]. Russia's Democratic Choice together with the united democrats and all the other democratic forces have dropped out of the top "twelve." "S. Mavrodi's party" has also dropped out.

An unexpected finding is the sharp worsening in the positions of "Derzhava": This is down to the scandal, the special congress, the revision of its list, the departure of several people, and the fact that A. Rutskoy has been forced to rely on some former LDPR members.

Popularity of Electoral Associations, September 1995 (Based on the Results of Assessments Using 10-Point Scale)

1. CPRF	6.7
2. "Yabloko"	5.8
3. LDPR	5.7
4. "Russia Is Our Home"	5.5
5. Congress of Russian Communities	5.2
6. Agrarian Party of Russia	5.0
7. "Women of Russia"	4.8
8. I. Rybkin's Election Bloc	4.0
9. Party of Russian Unity and Accord	3.7
10. Party of Workers Self-Management (S. Fedorov)	3.7
11. OPPR-FNPR Association	3.6
12. "Derzhava"	3.5

Decline in CIS Industrial Output Continues

MM2909105095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Sep 95

[INTERFAX report: "Industrial Production in CIS Continues Falling at Same Rate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Total industrial production in the CIS was down by an average of 6.8 percent in the first eight months of the year on the same period last year (26.1 percent during the same period of 1994). The rate of production decline in January-August 1995 remained virtually the same as that during the first seven months of the year, when it fell by 6.7 percent, INTERFAX was told by the CIS Interstate Committee for Statistics.

CIS To Withdraw From Abkhazia Upon Request

LD2809103995 Sukhumi Republic of Abkhazia Radio in Georgian 0600 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The CIS peacekeeping forces will have to withdraw from Abkhazia if such a request is made by either side in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman has said in an interview with INTERFAX. He was commenting on recent remarks by Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia that the Georgian Government will not permit an extension of the mandate of the CIS peacekeeping forces and UN military observers in the Abkhaz conflict zone because they have completely lost their credibility.

The diplomat said that the CIS peacekeeping contingent, which is made up entirely of Russian servicemen, has been deployed in the conflict zone at the request of both sides and will remain there if both sides want this. At a Minsk summit in May, CIS heads of state agreed to Georgia's proposal to extend the CIS peacekeeping forces' stay in Abkhazia until 31 December, the diplomat said. He stressed that either side in the conflict has the right to invite peacekeeping forces or ask them to leave the area; however, that should be expressed in an official request. The Georgian prime minister's remarks were of a general (?nature), the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman told INTERFAX.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 Sep

LD2909100595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 29 Sep 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 29 (Itar-Tass) — ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on land disputes. The newspaper describes the St. Petersburg experience in establishing a legal basis to regulate the development of the real estate market.

According to an ordinance issued by the Mayor of St.Petersburg, the process of real estate registration is handled here mainly by the City Committee for Land Resources and Land Tenure and is divided into three parts. The process is based on the experience of foreign countries. Over the first six months, the local system for the registration of real estate facilities has not only proved its vitality but has also become an example to other regions, the newspaper points out.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's Friday sports insert deals, in particular, with popular soccer player Sergey Yuran.

"ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Chechnya" special bulletin runs an interview with Anatoliy Romanov, Commander of the Combined Group of Federal Troops.

Romanov said that "as a Co-Chairman of the Supervisory Commission I do my best for all the points of the agreement to be implemented, particularly those concerning disarmament and an exchange of forcibly detained persons".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs an article headlined "Who profited from money intended for the unemployed?"

The money, which is assigned for the pursuance of an active policy of employment in many regions of the country, is "consumed" by the employment service itself (in a percentage of 1 to 10 in some places. One per cent to the unemployed and nine per cent to officials), the newspaper points out.

Employment service officials practise an unlawful placing of employment funds' resources at deposit (not correspondent) accounts of commercial banks, and even the issue of non-interest loans to the employment service staff members themselves.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an article headlined "blocs cannot be built on 'marshy ground'" in the Elections-95 rubric. The headline incorporates the remark by Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray who criticises both his recent allies as represented by the Russia Our Home association and the electoral system itself.

The pre-election situation in Russia is covered in detail in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's new publication — the 8-page special bulletin entitled "Political backgrounds" which is sold retail and sent out to exclusive subscribers.

The new publication is the product of the Analytical Service which effectively operates at the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI editorial office. The Service involves leading scientists from the Eastern European Phychoanalysis Institute, headed by Professor Mikhail Reshetnikov.

The first issue of the bulletin gives detailed characteristics of Russia's major electoral blocs and evaluates their chances at the forthcoming elections to the State Duma.

IZVESTIYA carries a dispatch by its Volgograd correspondent Valeriy Kornev who, on the strength of the example of the trying experience of the occupants of one of apartment houses in the city, shows the extent to which millions of residents are defenceless in the face of the pricing arbitrariness of the public utility services.

The dispatch points out that it is precisely public utilities' officials who are interested in preventing a proper accounting of the cost of services which are actually rendered to the dwellers of urban apartment houses.

Economist Tatyana Belkina, in comment on the Volgograd correspondent's dispatch, arrives at paradoxical conclusions. "If one looks at the actual state of affairs in the payment for public utility services by people with various levels of incomes, staggering disproportions become visible even to the naked eye," Belkina writes.

IZVESTIYA dated October 30 runs a commentary by the newspaper's political news analyst Teimuraz Mamaladze under the headline "Citizen P.S. Grachev as the barometer of Russian democracy".

Mamaladze writes that on September 27 Olga Govorova, a District Judge, created a precedent which can lead to a breakthrough in the relationships between the power of law and the power of wilfulness.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA does not comment in any way on the District Judge decision about bringing the Russian Defence Minister to the court session as the plaintiff under escort.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA frontpages an article in which it takes a skeptical view on the budget-95 performance.

The newspaper is of the opinion that the budget "is threatening to collapse on the eve of the elections. "The Treasury will not have ample resources. Will it again economise on the army?" the newspaper queries.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article dealing with Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko under the headline "Why is it that Shumeyko is referred to in Kuban Territory as Vladimir Philip Morris-sovich?"

The newspaper asserts that it was not without Shumeyko's involvement that the Krasnodar tobacco factory was sold to the Philip Morris Corporation.

TRUD carries an article dealing with a gang gun-battle on Peace Avenue in Moscow.

Tomohawk Missiles Fired in Serbia Brought to Russia

LD2809135495 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1255 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two American Tomahawk cruise missiles — of three experimental samples that did not explode when fired at Serbian positions — have been taken to Russia.

An officer from one of the special services told an EKHO MOSKVY radio station correspondent that, in addition to the two samples that had been undergoing trials in the Balkans, undamaged electronic equipment from a downed American reconnaissance aircraft was delivered to Russian territory on 19 September from the Serbian Republic.

Daily Dismisses Grachev Plan for Joint Bosnia Force

MK2809115395 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 1

[Commentary by Igor Kazakov: "Pavel Grachev: NATO, Let Me Do Some Commanding! Russian Defense Minister Seems To Have Lost Sense of Reality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev seems to have seriously decided to try his hand at peacemaking. In his words, Boris Yeltsin is expected to propose in October the creation of NATO and Russian joint forces to replace the UN "blue helmets" in Bosnia, with Russian and NATO generals taking turns at commanding the peacemakers. But Mr. Grachev seems to have been a bit too hasty in offering his services to the North Atlantic alliance.

American officials (it is the United States that will lay down the rules of the game for future peacemakers) have reacted rather listlessly to the Russian defense minister's offer. The message of their comments was that the important thing now is to have the parties to the conflict in Bosnia make peace between themselves. Rather much time must pass before the question of creating a special contingent to implement the peace accord is put on the agenda. A Pentagon spokesman, however, did not rule out that servicemen of states that are not NATO members would be able to participate in multinational peacemaking forces.

Although the official reaction to Grachev's statement was cautious enough, military experts point out that establishing Russian command over NATO forces is absolutely unrealistic. One would also think that the "successes" of Grachev's department in Chechnya do not add to enthusiasm of his Western counterparts. Russia can at best count on having its servicemen under NATO command.

Pavel Grachev's statement is yet more evidence that Moscow lays claim to one of the major roles in settling the Bosnian conflict. Notably, in Grachev's words, Russia is compelled to send its troops to Bosnia not so much by the desire to have the peacemakers treat all parties in the conflict equally as by fear for its own security. However, the minister obviously has forgotten that Russia and Bosnia are separated by more than one thousand kilometers.

Karasin Stresses Need For Cease-Fire in Bosnia

LD2809163395 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1416 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As usual on Thursdays, there was a briefing today at the Russian Foreign Ministry's press center on current foreign policy matters. Grigoriy Karasin, director of its information department, paid particular attention to statements by Andrey Kozyrev, the country's foreign minister, at the jubilee session of the UN General Assembly and of course to the situation in the Balkans. This is what Grigoriy Karasin had to say about the latest developments in the Bosnia situation.

[Begin Karasin recording] Despite all the complexity of the situation that still exists in Bosnia, it is now possible to express optimism for the very first time. It seems that the settlement process is becoming dynamic. I cannot fail to reiterate that the path to a final peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina is long and complex. The potential amassed by the Contact Group, the activities of its member states, and the sharply increased activeness of late of Russia, the United States, and the EU are all starting to produce results.

A second meeting of the Contact Group with the participation of the foreign ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and the Republic of Yugoslavia was held in New York on 26 September. Direct contacts are thus continuing between those involved in the Yugoslav crisis, and Russia has always pressed for this. The first solid ground has been broken, and in the main the principles for the future set-up in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been drawn up. Given a continuing constructive approach these principles will as a whole make it possible to ensure the most important thing — that the Bosnia-Herzegovina settlement becomes a long-term and lasting one and that the two entities making up Bosnia-Herzegovina are equal.

At this time it is fitting to glance back at Bosnian experience in its entirety, which shows that any good solutions may in a moment be cancelled out by a collapse of the situation on the spot. A cease-fire as soon as possible is needed to avoid this, and it needs to be enshrined in a relevant agreement. We intend to work actively to this end. The efforts of our Contact Group partners will also continue. We hope that the forthcoming meetings of the Contact Group will yield results. [end recording]

Duma Delegation Arrives in Croatia for Talks

LD2809152395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1458 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Andrey Naryshkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — "We plan to react very toughly if the military actions in Bosnia are continued," ITAR-TASS was told by Vice-Speaker of the State Duma Artur Chilingarov, who arrived in Zagreb for a brief working visit at the head of a Russian parliamentary delegation.

Chilingarov said that the purpose of the visit was to "hear the views of the other side". Several Russian parliamentary delegations had recently visited Yugoslavia and the Bosnian Serb Republic, while Chilingarov's team visited early this week eastern Slavonia, the last district of Croatia, which is still under Serb control.

"It was found necessary to inform the Croatian leadership about our position," Chilingarov said. "It is not for nothing that we have called an emergency session of the State Duma. The situation in the region alarms both the population of Russia and their parliament members. Everybody is disturbed by the war that is being waged against the Serbs. I have stated this bluntly here."

The Russian delegation had talks with the Chief of the Croatian President's Cabinet Hrvoje Sarinic and Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives (Parliament) Vladimir Seks. It is yet to meet First Deputy Foreign Minister Ivo Sanader (the minister is now in the United States), and also leaders of the U.N. mission in former Yugoslavia.

Deputies Meet Parliament Official

LD2809213395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2036 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Andrey Naryshkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ZAGREB, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — A Russian State Duma (upper house of parliament) delegation today held an unscheduled meeting with Chairman of Croatian Sabor (parliament) Nedjelko Mihanovic. The Russian MPs, led by Artur Chilingarov, conveyed Mihanovic a personal message from State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin.

It was, as a matter of fact, one of the first "declarations of intentions" to establish relations between parliaments of Russia and Croatia on a non-confrontation basis, taking into consideration avenues opening after a peaceful settlement of the regional crisis.

Russian State Duma deputy chairman Chilingarov, in particular told ITAR-TASS that Russia should weigh the pros and cons. There is no need to get into a big military campaign, he said.

According to chairman of the State Duma Defence committee Sergey Yushenkov, the world community and the conflicting parties were never so close to a peaceful settlement. "In any case, this can be judged by statements made by Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic. He quite clearly demonstrated his willingness to make specific concessions, which one could not have expected from him, say, half a year ago", Yushenkov said.

"It seems that Milosevic is ready to accept that plan, with which head of the Croatian President's administration Hrvoje Sarinic familiarized us today. We have not received permission to make public its contents, but this, in our opinion, is a sufficiently constructive plan. If it is accepted by the Serb side, the path to mutual recognition of Yugoslavia and Croatia and to achieve peace in the region will remain open, Yushenkov noted.

Tudjman Urges U.S., EU, Russia To 'Be More Tough'

LD2809194795 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Croat President Franjo Tudjman has commented, without going into raptures, on the results of the New York meeting on a Bosnian settlement. We note that Tudjman has not given any interviews for a long time, but he made an exception for journalists of Public Russian Television.

[Begin Tudjman recording in Serbo-Croatin with superimposed translation into Russian] The meeting that was held in New York was a small step forward on the road to peace. I believe that the main international mediators — the United States, Russia, and the European Union — should coordinate their positions more clearly and resolutely, including in the matter of drawing those who are interested in continuing the war over towards peace. This is important because a continuation of the war means not only further suffering for the peoples of the whole Balkan region, but is fraught with the most disastrous consequences. That is why I believe that the international mediators I have just mentioned, including the United States, Russia, and the European Union, must be more tough in their demands for peaceful actions on the part of those who are opposed to them. [end recording]

You will be able to see the interview with Croat President Franjo Tudjman for Public Russian Television during the "Voskresenye" program on 1 October.

Daily: NATO Bombing Conducted With 'Great Precision'

MM2909093495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 4

[Report by Igor Rotar: "City of Snipers. Reportage From Muslim and Serb Sarajevo"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sarajevo-Belgrade — [passage omitted] The scale of the destruction caused by the NATO bombing near Sarajevo is in no way comparable with the results of the Russian bombing in Chechnya. The North Atlantic bloc's bombers really did bomb only military targets. Admittedly, there were exceptions: A bomb exploded next to Sarajevo University's Electrical Engineering Faculty. The blast blew out the windows in the building and caused other slight damage (Russian television regularly showed these pictures), and air-launched missiles also exploded next to an apartment block (the framework was destroyed) and a hospital, injuring approximately 10 people. But these cases were not typical. On the whole, NATO aircraft operated with very great precision, and there were virtually no casualties among the civilian population or even among servicemen. "The NATO aircraft really did bomb military targets, otherwise this would have been overt genocide," Colonel Andrey Demurenko, chief of the "Sarajevo" sector of the UN peacekeeping force, who is accused by many of sympathizing with the Serbs, told IZVESTIYA.

Be that as it may, the NATO air raids summed up, as it were, the Serbs' despair. "The whole world wants to annihilate us Serbs. We can expect help from nowhere," Marinka Jakovlevic, an 11th-grade schoolgirl from the city of Sarajevo, told me.

"Both sides are noted for the brutality of their actions, but as soon as the Serbs violate the armistice, the United Nations sanctions bombing strikes; but when the armistice is violated by the Muslims, it confines itself to severe protests," Col. Demurenko believes.

Today the Bosnian Serbs' hopes for help from Russia are starting to evaporate.

But whereas the Serbs consider the Russian assistance clearly inadequate, their enemies hold the directly opposite opinion on this question. When people on the Muslim side learned that I was from Russia, at first my interlocutors would shudder and only then, having taken themselves in hand, would start to smile politely.

"And yet Russia really does not help the Serbs," I tried to defuse the situation.

"Russian mercenaries are killing our soldiers, and your deputies speak out against the bombing of the Serbs, i.e. they want our enemies to go on killing us. The Russian Army is killing Muslims in Chechnya. And you still speak of neutrality? In my opinion, Moscow is doing everything to set the whole Islamic world against itself," IZVESTIYA's correspondent invariably heard in reply.

Ministry: Contact Group To Meet in Moscow in Oct

LD2809200795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1905 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 28 (INTERFAX) — Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov will visit the Balkans again next week, reliable sources in the Foreign Ministry has said.

The route of Ivanov's trip has not been revealed yet. However, sources in the Foreign Ministry do not rule out that he may visit Belgrade for talks with the Serb leadership within the framework of concerted efforts by the contact group's member-countries (Russia, the USA, Britain, France and Germany) aimed at achieving a cease-fire in Bosnia.

According to the same sources from the Balkans Ivanov will go to Rome where the contact group's meeting at the political director level will take place.

A senior Russian Foreign Ministry official has said that the Rome meeting is to become another phase of preparations for an enlarged session of the contact group due to take place in Moscow in the middle of October.

The source explained that the term "enlarged session" implied the participation of the foreign ministers of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"It is not ruled out that in that case the contact group's member-countries will be represented at a higher level", the source said.

General Discusses Purposes of Visit to FRY

LD2809203195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2020 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Ivan Ivanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BELGRADE, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — For the first time in the four years of the war in the Balkan region, members of an official high-ranking military delegation headed by Vladimir Zhurbenko, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, arrived in Belgrade on Thursday to familiarize themselves with the present situation in the crisis areas.

"I and my colleagues from the General Staff intend to meet with the military and political leaders of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia and the Bosnian Serb Republic, and discuss with them the current situation and prospects for its further development. We also plan to study and assess the situation in the crisis regions of the former Yugoslavia and meet with the Russian contingents of the U.N. peacekeeping forces stationed in Sarajevo and near Vukovar," Colonel-General Vladimir Zhurbenko told ITAR-TASS in an interview in reply to a question about the purposes of the delegation's visit to Belgrade.

On the basis of the results of this trip the delegation of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces will prepare recommendations for the military and political leadership of Russia for making appropriate decisions on the peaceful and just settlement of the crisis in the Balkan region, the general pointed out.

The Russian military delegation is expected to stay on the territory of former Yugoslavia till October 4.

Yeltsin Congratulates Rabin, 'Arafat on Peace Accord

LD2809221995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2203 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, September 29 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin congratulated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the Palestine Liberation Organisation head Yasir 'Arafat on having reached major agreements towards lasting Middle East peace. The Israeli leader and the PLO chief on Thursday signed a pact to extend Palestinian self-rule throught the West Bank. The ceremony was held at the White House in Washington, DC.

In a greetings address to ceremony participants, Yeltsin characterised the pact as a "major accomplishment within the frames of the Mideast peace process which is developing steadfast with the co-sponsor assistance of Russia and the U.S.A. (and) support of the entire world community."

The Russian President appraised "political courage" of the two leaders whose "foresight and will for peace proved to overweight extremist attempts to foil the completion of the talks." He reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to the progress of the Mideast peace process and the implementation of Washington agreements.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who voiced the address expressed confidence that the Israeli government and Palestinian leadership would overcome the remaining problems and shortly enter the final stage of the talks to agree on the Palestinian status.

The Russian President also offered separate congratulations on the historic event to Rabin, 'Arafat, and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Deputy Minister Stresses Continuing Role

LD2809203495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian diplomats are not intending to stop their involvement in the Near East settlement.

[Correspondent Aleksey Venediktov] After his arrival in Strasbourg today, First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov stated, I would not say that Russia's role has been lessened in the settlement of the Near East crisis. Moreover, Russia has its own plans for the post-crisis situation in the Near East, particularly in respect of the economic revival of the region and Palestine. We and the Americans have, to some extent, a distribution of roles in the settlement of this crisis. Russia has been and remains not only a co-chairman of the peace conference, but also a co-sponsor of the entire Near East settlement, Igor Ivanov stressed.

Yeltsin Message Urges Full Cooperation With Japan

LD2809164195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1607 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Tatyana Selivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia calls to mount and fully use the potential of cooperation with Japan in all directions on the basis of the 1993 Tokyo declaration, says a verbal message by the Russian president Boris Yeltsin which was conveyed to the Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama by the Russian ambassador to Tokyo.

The message was sent in return to an earlier message by the Japanese government in which the Japanese side stressed the importance of further development of partner relations on principles of confidence and elimination of the negative heritage of the past.

A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin said that president Yeltsin pointed out that difficult problems existing in bilateral relations should be resolved calmly, making no haste, taking into account the reality and the interests of both people, making efforts to ensure comprehensive and full-fledged development of these relations.

The Russian president expressed confidence that Russia and Japan would successfully advance to genuine partnership and establishment of good neighborly relations for the benefit of the people of the two countries and in the interests of strengthening peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region and all over the world.

Davydov Stresses Primacy of Relations With PRC

LD2809092895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0850 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Grigoriy Arslanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin attaches great importance to the development of relations with Russia's eastern neighbours. This is a principled position of the Russian government, Russian Foreign Relations Minister Oleg Davydov who now participates in the 11th General Session of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS here on Thursday.

Davydov who is also vice-premier of the Russian government, rejected "frequent accusations" that the Russian government pursues a policy aimed at maintaining more frequent contacts with the West.

According to the minister, these "accusations" are convincingly refuted by Russian-Chinese top-level visits, the current stay in South Korea of the Russian government delegation headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin and top-level contacts with Australia and New Zealand.

According to a figurative statement by Yeltsin, the policy of the Russian government resembles the eagle on the Russian coat of arms which simultaneously looks westward and eastward.

Therefore, Davydov stressed, China for Russia is partner No.1 not only in the eastern direction but in general, in its foreign policy and foreign economic strategy. Russia is interested in developing stable and long-term relations with China.

Russian-Chinese cooperation provides for implementation of major projects: participation of Russian firms in the construction of the Sanxia hydrotechnical scheme and modernisation of Chinese industry, including heavy engineering, metallurgy, the power industry as well as construction of a nuclear power plant in the Liaoning province.

An understanding on all parameters of the last project has been already reached, the vice-premier noted.

The Russian market is of great interest to Chinese businessmen. Growing number of them start operating in Russia, Davydov stressed.

Therefore, Moscow and Beijing agreed on switching over to hard currency in their settlements so that Chinese businessmen could enjoy rights and opportunities, equal with other countries, concerning their exports.

"We shall do our best to open the green light in this sphere of cooperation. It can yield great benefits both for Russians, since they will be able to purchase high-quality and cheap Chinese consumer goods, foodstuffs and domestic appliances as well as for Chinese exporters who will get the large and developing market in Russia," Davydov noted.

"We want competition on the Russian market and oppose Western countries trying to monopolise it."

The vice-premier stressed that this line will be also conducted during preparations for the coming visit to China by Yeltsin this year.

Russian-Chinese cooperation is implemented both at the federal and regional levels, Davydov continued. Russian regions, China's neighbours, actively cooperate with Chinese provinces. The Russian government will encourage business cooperation at the level of Russian and Chinese enterprises and firms.

Turning to multilateral cooperation in the region, the minister pointed to the discussion of a major project on Russian gas supplies to China and South Korea from a deposit in the area of Irkutsk, Siberia.

It will be a multibillion project, and its implementation will tax efforts of the three sides. But it will promote growth in goods turnover between Russia and these states, Davydov concluded.

Chernomyrdin, ROK Premier Sign Cooperation Accord

LD2809200095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian and South Korean Prime-Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Yi Hong-Ku signed a declaration on the encouragement of bilateral trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

Their countries intend to promote cooperation in power production, development of natural resources, the machine-, car-, shipbuilding, nuclear and space industries, as well as join forces for the realization of military conversion programs, Chernomyrdin and his South Korean counterpart said.

The Declaration stresses that the Russian and South Korean governments will pay special attention to the development of the Irkutsk and Yakutsk gas deposits, South Korean presence in the free economic zone of Nakhodka and the construction of a Korean trade center in Moscow.

The two governments will pay special attention to joint ventures for the development of the Russian Far East and Siberia.

Chernomyrdin met with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and Prime-Minister Yi Hong-Ku Thursday morning. According to Korean officials, Kim Young-Sam said that Seoul "would welcome a visit by Boris Yeltsin to South Korea."

Yi Hong-Ku told Chernomyrdin that Moscow should make more moves for the creation of an appropriate legal and administrative foundation for Korean investment in the Russian economy.

Chernomyrdin and the South Korean leaders discussed bilateral relations and ways to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Churkin Comments on 'Complex' NATO Expansion Plan

LD2809202995 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Report by correspondent Dmitriy Khavin; from the "Vremya" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today at its headquarters in Brussels, the NATO leadership presented a document on the eastward expansion of NATO. Diplomats and experts from the NATO member-states as well as participants from the Partnership for Peace program were invited to the ceremony. [passage omitted]

[Begin Vitaliy Churkin, Russian president's special representative to negotiations on former Yugoslavia, recording] The document has been prepared for a long time and it does not come as a surprise to us. The content of the document is very complex. I think that at first glance we can confidently say that the issue relating to expansion or nonexpansion of NATO is a long-term one. Apart from other things, this means that Russia will have every opportunity to do everything necessary to ensure its national and state interests, however this issue may develop in the future. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Stong Reaction to Plan Expected

MK2809115295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Pavel Felgengauer: "NATO Expansion Is an Unsuitable Compromise"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, having at last received the final text through diplomatic mail, highly-placed officials in the responsible ministries began to study the 30-page memorandum on the procedure for NATO enlargement approved a week ago at the alliance's council session in Brussels. Later, a session of the Interagency Commission will be held, which will work out Moscow's official position, but even now one can be fairly certain that the reaction will be sharply negative.

The document produced in Brussels, like all other NATO political declarations, is the result of a compromise between the member states. Being the result of such a bureaucratic procedure, the text is marked by obscure wording verging at times on obvious ambiguity, by florid rhetoric, and by its considerable volume, due to repetitions. Evidently, after endless coordination, there was no more force left to edit everything.

Politically, the document is called upon to harmonize the interests of the proponents of immediate NATO enlargement, of which there are particularly many among U.S. politicians, with the position of a substantial number of skeptics, who maintain that an enlargement not coordinated with Russia is a dangerous and senseless provocation aimed against a still potentially strong nuclear superpower. The document publicly reaffirms the inevitability of NATO enlargement to the East, at the same time postponing it indefinitely, possibly until next century, because it does not envision either the precedence or the time frame for the admission of new members.

But this is a compromise between NATO members. It ignores entirely the opinion and mood of the Russian political elite, primarily because Brussels not only does not want to listen to, but does not even hear other opinions. Meanwhile, the enlargement of the alliance toward our borders is absolutely unacceptable, while the indefinite time frame for the beginning of this process could at any moment become quite definitive and imminent. Not a single serious political force in Russia will ever agree to this, no matter who is president: Yeltsin, Zyuganov, Lebed, Yavlinskiy, or somebody else. This, incidentally, is well understood by many Russia watchers from among professional diplomats and military men. A high-ranking diplomat from one great European power that is a NATO member state told me this week: "Uphill work lies ahead for us: In accordance with the guidelines of our Foreign Ministry, I am supposed to persuade Russian officials to adopt a document whose second part, which says that Russia's interests will be taken into account, fully contradicts the first part, which says that NATO will enlarge step by step."

NATO has stated that foreign military bases will "not necessarily" be deployed on the territory of newly admitted member states, but for Moscow this is not a compromise or consolation. Russia's future reaction to any attempt to deploy foreign troops in proximity to its borders (including under the guise of maneuvers) is quite predictable. It will be exactly the same as that of Washington in 1961, when our troops landed on Cuba. First a blockade (if the geographic position of the future zone of conflict allows it), then an ultimatum with a demand to pull out the troops immediately, and if the ultimatum is rejected, a preventive strike, which will cripple the enemy's offensive capabilities.

Naturally, while NATO is expanding to the East mostly on paper, Moscow too is trying to avoid irreversible moves in response. True, a high-ranking representative in the Yeltsin Administration did not rule out that after careful study of the NATO document, Russia could soon announce that it is suspending its participation in the "Partnership for Peace" program.

Moscow Hails Unfreezing of CE Membership Application

LD2809173195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1710 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — At today's news briefing Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin called the decision by the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly to unfreeze Moscow's membership application suspended under the pretext of Russia's military involvement in the events in Chechnya an "important step towards satisfying Russia's demands for full membership of the Council of Europe (CE)."

This move was made on Tuesday [26 September] by the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly held in Strasbourg.

Despite the attempts by influential circles to use the Chechen crisis as a pretext for an indefinite suspension of Russia's membership application, it should be noted with satisfaction that the parliamentary assembly has shown realism and a sense of responsibility for the establishment of equal partnership in European affairs, the Russian diplomat pointed out.

According to Grigoriy Karasin, on September 28-29 Igor Ivanov, chairman of the interdepartmental commission for the preparation for Russia's admission to the Council of Europe and First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, will visit Strasbourg at the invitation of the leadership of the Council of Europe.

He plans to meet with Chairman of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly Migel Angel Martinez and Secretary-General of the Council of Europe Daniel Tarschys, as well as heads of commissions and prominent deputies of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

Czechs Opt for F-16's, Abandon MiG's After Perry Trip

MM2809142295 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Zdenek Horeny: "Secretary in Role of Traveling Salesman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague, 27 Sep — During his visit to the Czech Republic, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry sought to foist on the Czechs the obsolete U.S. F-16 fighter. The visitor complimented the Czech regime, saying that Prague is regarded in America as the number one candidate for NATO membership. But then — almost in the spirit of the "carrot and stick" policy — he candidly explained to all the senior Czechs who received him that they had one choice: Anyone wanting to join NATO must make sure his Army's weapons are compatible with those of the pact armies. So he has to buy the right weapons.

Perry signed an agreement with his Czech partner Vilem Holan on measures to keep military information secret. In this connection he promised to provide the Czechs with all the data on the U.S. F-16 fighter, which, according to him, would be sold to them at a 50 percent discount. Of course, the point is that it is discounted stock: It is a question of obsolete aircraft requiring modernization.

On the very eve of the American's visit Czech Minister Holan said that the Czech Air Force intends to modernize all 24 Russian MiG-21 fighters, also obsolete. Czech Republic Defense Ministry experts calculate that the modernization of all the existing MiG-21 fighters would be a great advantage, particularly from the viewpoint of the state budget potential. Modernization would cost $70-80 million. But Holan capitulated nonetheless, under pressure from Perry: Literally 24 hours after the meeting with him he publicly abandoned the plan to modernize the MiG's.

Undoubtedly the Americans, taking advantage of their current position in the world, regard the former Warsaw Pact countries as a new area for the sale of their obsolete weapons. So the U.S. military-industrial complex is endeavoring to steal a march in this region on such competitors as Germany, Britain, or France. Secretary Perry showed in Prague how this is done.

Political Issues

More on Clinton-Yeltsin Phone Conversation

MM2809152295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 2

[Unattributed report under "Brief and to the Point" rubric: "Presidents' Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The White House press secretary has informed journalists of the substance of Wednesday's [27 September] telephone conversation between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

He said that most of this conversation, which lasted 20 minutes, focused on European problems, especially the latest encouraging development of events regarding a settlement to the Bosnian conflict.

The presidents also discussed their upcoming 23 October meeting within the framework of the UN General Assembly session.

Answering a question regarding the possibility of Russia's participation in the forces called on to ensure that the Bosnia agreement is implemented, the press secretary reported that, according to Boris Yeltsin's statement, he will find a way to reach an acceptable approach to this problem by working together.

The U.S. President plans to go to Moscow to participate in the spring summit meeting of G-8 leaders to discuss questions regarding the safety of nuclear materials.

Communists Pursue Question of Impeaching Yeltsin

LD2809175395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 28 (Interfax) — The Communist faction in the State Duma will return to the question of impeaching President Yeltsin, which it first brought up last June, Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov has said.

Meanwhile, the State Duma's Deputy Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, who is responsible for collecting the 150 signatures of Duma members required to start the procedure, has agreed that the multi-phase procedure is unlikely to be taken to a logical outcome.

Zyuganov said that the main aim of the Communist faction was to remind "top officials that they must abide by laws and the Constitution."

As it began to collect signatures in support of impeachment procedures against President Yeltsin, the Communist Party accused him of frustrating the operation of the legislative branch (the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet in 1993) and the unlawful order to storm the hospital building in Budyonnovsk seized by a group of terrorists under Shamil Basayev last June.

Zyuganov avoided saying whether his faction would support a motion of no confidence in the Chernomyrdin Cabinet.

About 100 signatures have been collected in the State Duma in support of that motion already.

Zyuganov said that the "utterly uncontrolled presidency is the chief cause of Russia's tragedy." He believes that relations between Chernomyrdin and Yeltsin worsened lately. Zyuganov said that if the forthcoming parliamentary elections improve Chernomyrdin's rating as a politician, he will be the most likely candidate for president and Yeltsin's associates are perfectly aware of that.

Government Meets on Energy, Fuel Supplies for Defense

LD2809141195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government met today, chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, to discuss energy and fuel complex problems. The government recognized that switching off fuel supplies to Defense Ministry facilities is inadmissable. A decision was adopted on developing measures within a month which will lead to control being exercised over oil companies that supply Russian aircraft fueling stations.

The government also discussed ways to implement the program for the comprehensive development of Sakhalin and the Kuril islands. The governor of Sakhalin region has appealed to the government to treat this program as being separate from the common plan for the development of the Far East. He has also asked federal authorities to assist in giving Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands the status of a favored economic zone having special tax concessions.

Fuel Minister Proposes Price Freeze

MM2909090995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 95 Weekend Edition p 2

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko: "Proposal To Cut Energy Prices"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fuel and energy problems were discussed at yesterday's federal government session.

There is a very difficult situation in the power-generation sphere. According to Yu. Shafranik, head of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, there has been a delay in procuring winter fuel stocks compared with last year.

Particularly in the Northwest Region, where power workers have no funds because of the debts owed by local military units, the Navy, and military-industrial complex enterprises which are themselves owed money by the federal budget.

The Finance Ministry, for instance, is planning to allocate the promised 1.3 trillion rubles on a repayable basis only on 5 October.

Yu. Shafranik proposed a radical measure — freezing prices for fuel, metal, and rail transport until 1 April 1996. In this he was warmly supported by Transport Minister V. Yefimov and T. Apodin, chairman of the International Aviation Committee. Since fuel prices in the north, Siberia, and Far East regions are already two-three times higher than world prices.

First Vice Premier O. Soskovets, who chaired the government session, announced that on 27 September many governors proposed cutting energy prices by 30 percent. This question and Yu. Shafranik's proposal will be discussed by the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Railways, and the Russian Federation Committee for Metallurgy. O. Soskovets also noted that "surplus power" regions are also to blame for the destructive fluctuations in electricity prices.

The vice premier instructed Yu. Shafranik to organize direct supplies of fuel, with no intermediaries, to airports in remote regions.

The programs for the socioeconomic development of the Kurils and the Russian Federation timber industry complex were approved the same day.

Daily Discusses Anti-Kozyrev Campaign

954F3552A Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 34, 14 Sep-20 Sep 95 p 2

[Article by Aleksey Bausin: "Between a Serb and a Hard Place: Kozyrev On Two Horns of One President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign policy has firmly established itself as a factor in the Russian domestic political struggle. Boris Yeltsin's threatening gesticulation in front of television cameras at a recent press conference is the most graphic proof of this. Because the Russian president's speech, teeming with strong words, was definitely calculated for domestic consumption. And it cannot be ruled out that Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev, the 44-year-old Russian minister of foreign affairs, will fall victim to domestic political battles. In any case, Yeltsin's statement that he is not satisfied with the work of the Russian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] can be considered a sufficiently threatening warning.

Rumors of imminent personnel changes in the top echelons of the MFA have been circulating for quite a while, but Yeltsin's criticism lent them particular weight. Especially considering that the pretext for the "ranting and raving" was the failure of Russian foreign policy in the Balkans. There is a question that comes up in this connection, though. When Yeltsin criticizes the MFA for shortcomings and general sluggishness, it would be prudent to remember that Andrey Kozyrev emphasizes on every occasion that the MFA is a conduit of the president's policy, and that foreign policy in our country is set by the president. A reasonable question in this case is: Who made the mistake—the president in defining the strategy, or our diplomats in implementing it?

A clear understanding of how foreign policy decisions are made in the Kremlin could provide an answer to this question. Meanwhile, only one thing can be stated with certainty: Andrey Kozyrev plays one of the lead roles. It is quite possible that this particular factor will become decisive in choosing a "scapegoat." Meanwhile, against the background of other resignations, one can only marvel at political longevity of the Russian minister of foreign affairs.

Elevated by a twist of fate to the high post after the disintegration of the USSR, Kozyrev has managed to outlive several governments. But while he looked more in his own environment during the period of "laboratory chiefs" at the helm of power, under Chernomyrdin he is a typical "friend among strangers." Russian foreign policy experts suggest that during the period of the so- called Russian foreign policy idealism, Andrey Kozyrev was an ideal go-between for establishing new Russia's contacts with the rest of the world. Quite often, good relations assumed concessions on the part of Russia on many cardinal problems. By the way, Russian diplomacy's current failures in the Balkans can be explained to a large extent also by the fact that at the beginning of the Balkan crisis Russia obediently followed the policy of the United States and the European powers.

On the other hand, when analyzing the activities of the "long-playing" minister one cannot fail to notice a serious evolution in Andrey Vladimirovich's outlook. While in the past Saddam Husayn was "rabble," now the Russian MFA is fighting to repeal sanctions against Iraq. While in the past loud statements that Russia is a great power and should be reckoned with were mostly the opposition's prerogative, now Kozyrev does not shy from repeating Zhirinovskiy 93-type phrases. Such thunderous statements delivered in such a soft voice hardly intimidate anybody in the West, however.

Will Kozyrev resign? Sooner or later—yes. But only the president can give a final answer to this question. He, and only he, will decide on the fate of the Russian minister. And certainly not the Duma, which has once again demanded his resignation. Informed sources are inclined to think that this will happen some time in the spring of next year, right before the presidential elections.

The future will tell whether Andrey Kozyrev will replace a diplomat's jacket with a professorship in some American university or a deputy mandate. But one thing can already be said with assurance. The job of the next minister of foreign affairs will be even harder. Because giving Russia's foreign policy the luster of a great power in a situation where Moscow has too few tools left to somehow influence the fate of the world will require of the next chief of the high-rise on Smolenskiy Square even more agility than that of the proverbial camel squeezing through the eye of a needle.

Rybkin Denies Rumors of Foreign Ministerial Offer

LD2809133395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 28 (Itar-Tass) — "I always marvel at the fact that someone knows much more about the contents of my conversations with the Russian President that what really happens and learns this much earlier than I." This is how Speaker of the Russian State Duma Ivan Rybkin commented on Thursday at a news conference on a report in some media that he had been offered the post of foreign minister during his conversation with President Boris Yeltsin in Sochi.

"I would be very much interested to know who was that unnamed source among my associates to whom representatives of the press referred. I have nothing to do with such rumours whatsoever," the Speaker of the Duma said.

Yeltsin Team Seen Moving To Discredit Chernomyrdin

MK2809135495 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 39, 28 Sep-4 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Ye.K.: "Yeltsin's Inner Circle Believes That Chernomyrdin Is Too Popular and Therefore Should Be Taken Down a Peg"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past few months, especially since the Budennovsk events, the president's inner circle has jealously watched Chernomyrdin emerge from Yeltsin's shadow and begin to play an independent role in politics. Significantly, the premier is distancing himself from Yeltsin. This much is evident at least from Chernomyrdin's statements to the effect that there are people directly interested in the Chechen war, dropping broad hints that these people are in the president's inner circle.

Chernomyrdin is cleverly building his image in the course of the ongoing election campaign. The following brilliant move can be noted as an example: his visit to the studio of NTV, where he met with his look-alike from "Kukly" [TV puppet show]. The premier's reaction was favorable and, it seemed, even sincere. Such emotions and actions are out of bounds for Yeltsin.

Chernomyrdin's jump to the top places in popularity ratings has long aroused concern and discontent within the president's inner circle: Yeltsin has no need for extra rivals. Therefore, measures are being worked out to discredit the premier in order to sideline him. In particular, as OBSHCHAYA GAZETA has found out, in the very near future a series of articles should be expected exposing Chernomyrdin's economic transgressions both at the time he was a pure economic manager and later, when he acquired political weight. There will be leaks and commissioned articles.

The premier should also expect a strike from the "Shcherbakov-Shmakov-Volskiy" election bloc. This bloc is sharply negative about the government's economic performance and will build its election campaign on criticism of the government and naturally Premier Chernomyrdin in person. This bloc also includes Vladimir Kvasov, Chernomyrdin's former chief of staff. There is also information that the entrepreneurs-trade union bloc will try to use his knowledge of some secrets of the premier's kitchen.

FSB Claims Official's Dismissal Not Part of 'Purge'

LD2809135995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1215 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — The director of the registration and archives department of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) has been dismissed from his post for unsatisfactory performance, FSB spokesman, Vladimir Tomarovskiy, told Itar-Tass today.

He dismisssed media reports that some of FSB leaders were arrested in a purge which is allegedly in progress in the security service.

Tomarovskiy also denied media allegations that facts of "unsanctioned turning over of information to some persons" took place within the FSB.

"The newspaper publications about this had several imprecise points, to put it softly," the FSB spokesman said.

Secret Services Emerging as Political Player

MK2809132695 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Sep 95 p 5

[Report by Petr Romanov and Georgiy Bovt: "A Special Force in Politics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The military and politics," "special services and politics," "actors and politics" (a week ago KOMMERSANT-DAILY described in detail the role actors are playing in the current election campaign) — in the course of the election campaign these combinations of words can be heard more and more often. Certain observers are inclined to think that these diverse categories of people who are popular among different categories of voters can all be viewed collectively as "ceremonial generals." Meanwhile, some of the generals are not all that "ceremonial." This is what today's story is about, based on private conversations with veterans of the well-known "Alpha" unit, as well as a number of active officers in today's special services, who, for understandable reasons, wished to remain anonymous. As for "Alpha," it stands out among the rest as an agency that has joined the Congress of Russian Communities' electoral campaign.

A Thin Veil of Secrecy Just Intrigues the Voter

Lots of rumors have spread over the Congress of Russian Communities (KRO). They have been sparked partly by a number of objective causes and partly by the personality of KRO leader Yuriy Skokov, who long worked in the defense industry and appears to have acquired a persistent penchant for secrecy there. Interest in the KRO has been fomented by the media, with their keen interest in the charismatic figure of General Aleksandr Lebed and the rumors that Skokov is Chernomyrdin's "backup pilot" of sorts in Yeltsin's calculations. Quite recently, namely, in his memoirs, Yeltsin actually called Skokov "a spare premier." It is an open secret that none other than Skokov enjoys the warm feelings of a considerable number of Yeltsin's close associates (first aide Ilyushin, for instance), feelings Viktor Chernomyrdin fails to elicit in them. It is said that a Kremlin "dove" suggested privately to Ilyushin that the KRO be "quashed" when it started scoring points and tearing apart the two-bloc model (Chernomyrdin-Rybkin) invented by the Kremlin in the spring. The first aide's response was very brief, but extremely pointed: "No need to do it!"

A recent publication of the "Izvestiya" analytical center referred to the KRO and its "unobtrusive patriotism" as a "nomenklatura" organization. This term can be accepted, but only in part. A significant portion of the KRO leadership undoubtedly belongs to the current Russian (already ruling) elite. Of course, this cannot but foment rumors about Skokov's possible premiership — the reasoning goes as follows: The current elite will be ensured continuity and certain guarantees against property redistribution. On the other hand, it is not quite clear what is to be done with such figures as Lebed or Sergey Glazyev — they may well refuse to play by the rules written in advance (by somebody else). It seems that the KRO is internally contradictory and, therefore, unpredictable — it includes both the elements of continuity and a potential (but skillfully concealed until an appropriate time) threat to the current elite. Deep inside the KRO, there is a basis for reshaping this elite and society at large (or, rather, revamping both). The basis is its moderate nationalism decorated with the idea of a "strong state," something that is particularly topical against the backdrop of the lack of a coherent and well-developed new, national, post-Soviet ideology in "[Russia Is] Our Home," which lays claim to the role of the party of power. In this regard, the power agencies' involvement in the KRO appears in a different light. They could become and are already becoming not so much "ceremonial generals" or isolated charismatic figures with trouser stripes and epaulets, popular with the man in the street who demands order, but an entire institution, and a functional one at that.

An Oath of Allegiance

It has transpired from conversations with "Alpha" veterans that on 21 August an agreement was signed between the veterans' associations of the "Alpha," "Vityaz," and "Vympel" special units in which the former special-purpose unit servicemen announced their intention to participate jointly in the election campaign as part of the KRO. The veterans' interests in the KRO will be represented by KGB Colonel Sergey Goncharov, chairman of the "Alpha" veterans association. He himself plans to run for the State Duma and is in fourth place on the KRO party list.

The present-day "Alpha" is not just the number one among special-purpose units. With respect to it we can also talk about a community, a "fraternity" of sorts bound not so much by formal but rather by informal ties and cemented by an unwritten code of conduct. This community includes not only those who are still in the service, but also those who have had to leave. The latter, being fairly young veterans, actively work in the most diverse areas of Russian life and in different positions and uphold the corporate spirit. It is they, not the unit's immediate command on Lubyanka, who can mold special service officers' views. It is they who can actually influence their political line of conduct.

The hopes that the military or the special services can be left outside politics have already proven fully illusory. In particular, one cannot but note that those same "Alpha" veterans are also a mouthpiece of sorts: They are "ex officio" (that is, in the absence of any official posts) free to say aloud what Lubyanka inhabitants either only think or whisper. That same Sergey Goncharov, for instance, may openly criticize the actions of the Russian prime minister in connection with [the Chechen takeover of] Budennovsk and subsequent developments: "What results have the talks produced? In fact, disarmament in Chechnya is making no progress at all. Chernomyrdin has in fact become a hostage to Basayev and Dudayev." This opinion, we shall repeat, is one of the most widespread views in the power agencies, even though it is not being publicized there.

Today, following in the footsteps of Colonel General Mikhail Barsukov, who headed the Main Protection Directorate but then was called upon by the president to prop up the Federal Security Service [FSB], "Alpha" has returned home, to Lubyanka. The unit sees this as a fairly positive step, even though opinions about Barsukov differ. Some call him "a parquet general," others refer to him as a bright person and express the hope that now the restoration of the security system will begin in earnest. "If he has come to the FSB to do so, 'Alpha' will do all it can to help him," an officer said. "If, however, he has come on the eve of the election to politick here, that won't work." This, again, is independence of judgment, which partly explains why the authorities could not trust the special service chiefs' public statements or count on the absolute loyalty of their rank and file in the two Russian political crises (particularly in 1993). Of course, you can keep blaming the Kremlin as long as you wish for "underreforming" the KGB in the fall of 1991, but now it is too late.

By the way, most special service officers still hate Bakatin, the "post-August chairman" of the KGB, thinking that the reform of their office, limited as it was, could have been reduced to just cutting off the fifth directorate, which was in charge of ideology and dissidents. Goncharov told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent with indignation: "The Russian capital is packed with foreigners who live here without any documents or permission and do whatever they please. Dozens of foreigners wander daily through state agencies dealing with defense matters as if they were at home. They work there virtually without control. What national security can we talk about here?" This view is echoed (virtually without variation, word for word) by most special service officers with whom we had a chance to talk (naturally, on condition of anonymity). This is the phenomenon called the corporate frame of mind, which cannot be disregarded. By the way, the KRO with its ideology of "moderate nationalism" (that is, nationalism without extremism or the discredited national communism) may well prove to be the most comfortable ideology for many members of not only the special services, but also of the power agencies in general. That same Sergey Goncharov says about himself that he is a patriot and does not see anything bad about this word. He refers to those currently in power as "the so-called democrats" even though he "likes and respects democracy." The "Alpha" member, again, articulates views that are widespread in the special services when he says that 1991 marked the start of the destruction of the state machinery. According to this view, part of the destructive work was a blow at the KGB, in which "there were specialists who dealt with the protection of state interests and secrets."

Patriotism as an Election Slogan

The circle of national patriotic forces is now fairly wide. Banners and slogans are alike. The movement has its own "ultras" and extremists. Everybody is trying to take up patriotic slogans, though with mixed results. Clearly, there is "more patriotism" accumulated on the left flank of the political spectrum. As for the right wing — the democrats — alas, in mass consciousness they are least of all associated with a constructive patriotic doctrine, the development of which is a priority not just today — it was a priority yesterday. In 1993, it was Zhirinovskiy who was the greatest "patriot." Today, his star has plainly passed its zenith — people in Russia dislike those who frequent the television screen for too long. It looks as if the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] will not be able to repeat its 1993 success.

Curious results were obtained in a recent poll of Russian servicemen (it is well known that the military is an institution where the "degree of patriotism" can be checked; in the special services, unfortunately, no such surveys have been conducted). Although the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and the LDPR still occupy the first two places in terms of servicemen's sympathies, a very illustrative trend is emerging: The polls show a very fast, not just considerable, growth in the KRO's popularity with the military. The Congress has already caught up with the LDPR (they polled 16 percent each among senior officers against the Communists' 22 percent; among junior officers, the KRO is unrivaled). The growth in the KRO's popularity is, of course, a consequence of the fact that it included in its list General Lebed, who is seen primarily as "anti-

Grachev." The KRO's head, however, is the experienced apparatchik Skokov, not Lebed.

The KRO's influence in the power structures should not be attributed to the figure of Lebed alone. Moreover, placing a military man at the head would run counter to Russian political traditions. By the way, everybody seems to have forgotten what Skokov formerly was. Not only was he Security Council secretary and not only did he work for a long time in the military-industrial complex, with which he still maintains very close ties. Many Russian generals owe their rank precisely to Yuriy Skokov, who also used to head the Qualifications Commission. To all appearances, the power structures may largely place their bets in the upcoming election on Skokov-Lebed and the KRO.

The current Russian political and economic elite is, of course, concerned most of all by the question of stability and guarantees against the forcible redistribution of property. The KRO is ready to give such a guarantee within certain limits. That same Goncharov says, "Unlike many others, we do not threaten anybody. We do not say that if we come to power we will destroy or put behind bars one person or another. Everything will be done according to the constitution, be it good or bad. This is the law. No revolutionary upheavals. No revenge. No blood." It is another matter that the sincerity of such promises can be tested in practice only after the KRO comes to power.

Goncharov made yet another pointed statement. When asked what will happen if the current authorities "do not like" the results of the December election, the KGB colonel noted: "Two scenarios are possible. Either Yeltsin will try to cancel the presidential election, or he will attempt to make sure that his successor will give him and his team certain guarantees. A gentlemen's agreement. There is no other way. No one will tolerate a person who will be in intransigent opposition to Yeltsin."

Therefore, the special services realize their ability to keep the authorities in check and to make them heed both themselves and the rules of the game.

Federal Offices To Gain Access to 'Sistema' Network

MK2909063495 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "All Federal Officials Will Have To Share One Computer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Virtually all federal offices will in the near future be connected to the "Sistema" computer network, a science and technology center for legal information under the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency [FAPSI].

The network was developed by FAPSI specialists a rather long time ago and went into operation in late April and early May in the wake of the president's edict on a program for legal information computer technology. It is designed to enable officials to promptly obtain information about new legislative documents issued by the president and parliament's two chambers, government directives, and various instructions of federal ministries and departments.

At the moment, the new computer network is being mainly used by rather high-level officials — heads of ministry directorates and above.

Now a decision has been made to increase considerably the number of network users. A directive about this has been signed by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. To enable this, a complex of buildings will even be constructed on Sretenskiy Boulevard, to which "Sistema" will move.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Army Conscription

LD2809151895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 28 September (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree "On the conscription of Russian Federation citizens to military service in October-December 1995 and on the transfer into the reserve from military service of soldiers, sailors, sergeants, warrant officers and military builders, who have served the set term for military service." The press service of the head of state reported this to ITAR-TASS today.

Army To Draft 224,000, Discharge 19,000

LD2809215195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2013 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 28 (Interfax) - The Russian Defense Ministry plans to draft 224,000 people into the armed forces and discharge 19,000 servicemen who completed their compulsory army service this fall, Head of the General Staff's Main Organization and Mobilization Department, Colonel-General Vyacheslav Zherebtsov said.

Zherebtsov told a briefing at the Defense Ministry today that as the army service term would increase to two years from October 1, the army would be better supplied with personnel. He said the armed forces would be manned by 77%, the Interior Ministry troops by 79% and the border guard troops by 90%.

Zherebtsov said in response to a question from Interfax that the armed forces would number 1.47 million servicemen after this fall's draft. He said the corresponding presidential decree provided for the Russian army's numbering 1.7 million people by January 1, 1996.

Zherebtsov said that during thus fall's draft military departments would allow Russian residents to opt for an alternative service. He said that until the State Duma approved a relevant law, this problem would be regulated by orders from the defense minister and the General Staff's chief.

The alternative service is expected to last for the same two years as the army service. Zherebtsov said he was in favor of making the alternative service at least two times longer than the military service.

Plesetsk Posts Armed Guards at Power Substations

LD2809194595 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The dispute between the Arkhangelsk power company and the Plesetsk launch site continues. Our correspondent Valeriy Chubar reports.

[Chubar] The latest satellite, the Resurs-S, was launched recently from the military and space forces' site at Plesetsk in Arkhangelsk Region. The launch took place in extremely difficult circumstances, because of a conflict between Plesetsk and the Arkhangelsk power grid. The launch site's debt to the Arkhenergo company reached 17 billion rubles in September. The company has warned that it will cut off power to the cosmodrome's most important installations. It gave an ultimatum: pay off the debt in 10 days or all installations at the launch site, both military and civilian, will be cut off.

The ten days have passed, and the financial situation is no clearer. Against this backdrop, Plesetsk commanding officer Lieutenant-General Zhuravlev was forced to go to extraordinary lengths — he has posted armed patrols at transformer substations. As the Resurs satellite was being launched, Arkhenergo was threatening to send in the OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] and use force to pull the plug.

Fortunately, matters did not go that far. But the problem remains unresolved. People performing a vital duty for the state might still have to get out the candles at any moment.

Grachev Not To Attend Libel Trial

LD2809220895 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The court ruling that Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is to be forcibly brought along to the Presnenskiy courtroom has not yet been received by the 169th militia department, and it is within the bounds of its territory that the head of the Russian military department resides. Our correspondent was told this by the militia department.

The ruling by the people's court about bringing the defense minister along by force is connected with a lawsuit arising from the appearance in the 'Moskovskiy Komsomolets' newspaper of an article, which the head of the military department regarded as "insulting" and started proceedings against its author. However, the defense minister, who was the plaintiff in the case, had not attended the court. [passage omitted]

Our special correspondents attempted to obtain further information at first hand. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Pavel Sergeyevich, could you tell us whether by not attending Krasnopresnenskiy people's court in Moscow yesterday you were giving up your claim against 'Moskovskiy Komsomolets'? If not, will you be in court on 25 October?

[Grachev] No, I am not giving up my claim, because it was indeed an insult and this is generally accepted. So why am I not going to this court? You see, there are courts and there are mockeries of courts. I do not intend to attend a mockery of a court, the more so since I am the plaintiff, because spectacular shows are being arranged there even prior to my arrival involving film cameras and a host of journalists. Shows are being prepared there during the discussion of the matter itself. When elementary norms of behavior are observed, without any of these shows, I shall attend. But let me say in advance that I shall not be attending the court on 25 November [as heard], even if these conditions are to some degree observed. The fact is that on 25 — yes, 25 October — I shall be making an official visit to Greece. [end recording]

Spokeman: Defense Budget Only Enough for First Half-Year

MM2909105495 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Government Owes Army 4 Trillion Rubles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government owes the Defense Ministry around 4 trillion rubles [R], Lieutenant General Aleksey Nefedov, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry's Main Military Inspectorate, told a roundtable devoted to the problems of budget funding. The general said that the defense spending of R80 trillion envisaged in the 1996 federal budget will only be enough for the Armed Forces "for the first half of the year." The Defense Ministry estimates that this amount should be increased by at least a factor of 1.7.

Experts Discuss Control, Storage of Nuclear Arms

LD2809124195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The conflict between Russia's Defense Ministry and the State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety [Gosatomnadzor] over who is mainly responsible for the supervision of production, storage, and transportation of nuclear materials at military facilities was discussed at a news conference, from which our correspondent Georgiy Savtsov had this to report:

[Savtsov] General and Academician Sergey Zelentsov confirmed that Russia currently has the most reliable safety system for the storage of nuclear weapons, power plants included. Brief power cuts, due to debts to power industry workers, cannot affect nuclear safety.

The Defense Ministry maintains that after 1992 the State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety tried to take on powers to ban certain things, despite the fact that decisions on nuclear issues were made at governmental level. The president's edict of 26 July 1995, entrusting control functions to the Defense Ministry, was a consequence of that. Hence, the issue of additional control over Defense Ministry activities does not now arise.

Nevertheless, it was confirmed that the system of nuclear weapons safety as such is headed by the president and is implemented with the participation of 16 ministries and departments.

Despite the soothing tone of the news conference, the situation in the Northern Fleet in particular continues to be tense. This is because the Russian atomic fleet was not ready for in-depth disarmament in keeping with the SALT-2 treaty.

The problem, as defined at the news conference, is this: The State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety previously tried to control not only civilian nuclear facilities but also military ones. Now the situation is the other way round: the Defense Ministry practically deprives the State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of its supervisory powers, even where civilian facilities are concerned.

General Verkhovtsev cited an interesting fact: in 1992, when it became obvious that the USSR's disintegration was inevitable, a secret operation was carried out to transport nuclear warheads from certain Union republics to the territory of the Russian Federation. Here, not a single ministry or department was informed, for conspiratorial reasons, of course.

Official Criticizes Role of Gosatomnadzor

LD2809145895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] A news conference devoted to the problems of safety in the processing, storage, and use of nuclear weapons was held today at the Defense Ministry in Moscow. Correspondent Dubnov report:

[Dubnov] In no other nuclear power can an organization independent of the department effect supervision over the Ministry of Defense or the enterprises developing nuclear weapons. Until recently, supervision was carried out in our country by an organization outside the department, the State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety [Gosatomnadzor]. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense do not agree with the functions that this organization fulfilled. In the opinion of Academician Sergey Zelentsov [chief consultant of the directorate of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense], the people who worked for Gozatomnadzor were engaged in narrow, specialized fields of study.

[Begin Zelentsov recording] It is not a system. These are people who just happen to come along or people who worked their term and were then made redundant, or people who worked on subjects close to, but not directly linked with, nuclear weapons. Such an organization was naturally not in a position to make an objective assessment of the state of affairs. [end recording]

[Dubnov] The fact that Gozatomnadzor could provide various organizations, including foreigners, with services and information caused dissatisfaction among the military. According to information from those taking part in the briefing, there had been cases when military secrets were revealed.

[Begin V. Verkhovtsev recording; head of sector at the main operational directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces; caption] In the main, nuclear safety depends on those people who use nuclear weapons, and not on those people who supervise the process. [end recording]

[Dubnov] The president of Russia issued an instruction on 26 July, in accordance with which only the Ministry of Defense will now supervise the development, production, use, and storage of nuclear weapons. Let us hope that they only have professional people working at the ministry. [Video shows news conference]

Military To Retain 'Exclusive Control'

LD2809202695 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference on Thursday, Defense Ministry spokesmen announced that the military retain exclusive control over all sites containing nuclear weapons, in accordance with orders from the president. The State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety [Gosatomnadzor] had recently been pressing for the right to control these nuclear sites. Here is General Vladimir Verkhovtsev:

[Begin Verkhovtsev recording] This new procedure is highly significant. But even so, note the clause in Gosatomnadzor's regulations about issuing licences for storing and moving nuclear munitions. It greatly encroaches on the functions of the commanding officers and other people working with nuclear weapons.

Let me explain. Take the situation in 1991, when it was obvious that the Soviet Union was going to fall apart. The Defense Ministry carried out a fairly rapid and very hush-hush redeployment of nuclear weapons, from other Union republics back to the Russian Federation. If at that time we had to start applying for licences and inviting representatives of various authorities to witness the storage and movement of nuclear munitions, then, I suspect, the operation's cover would have been blown. And nuclear weapons would have remained in those republics. [end recording]

Nuclear Storage Said 'Fully Guaranteed'

LD2809174295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 28 (Interfax) — Defense Ministry officials in charge of strategic armaments told a Thursday [28 September] news conference in Moscow that the safety of storing nuclear arms is fully guaranteed.

"The entire process from developing weapons to their installment is under permanent and tireless control. Therefore military nuclear facilities should not arouse public anxiety," a consultant of the ministry Lieutenant-General Sergey Zelentsov said.

According to him, in addition to the Defense and Nuclear Energy Ministries 16 other agencies are responsible for nuclear safety. Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin heads the government commission for nuclear safety.

The organizers of the news conference supported the presidential orders issued last June to bar the State Nuclear Safety Inspectorate from checking military facilities. "The inspectorate does not have appropriate experts or regulations for that", Zelentsov said. According to him, such outside control can worsen the situation, because the specialists of the inspectorate cannot evaluate the situation impartially.

Deputy chief of the Defense Ministry nuclear safety department Viktor Kruglov stressed that inspectorate employees in violation of regulations have submitted classified information to the media.

In reply to a question from Interfax Kruglov declared that the over 100 nuclear submarines withdrawn from the North and Pacific fleets "present no threat to people or the environment". "Their reactors are safe in the nuclear respect. Therefore nuclear incidents can be caused only by acts of sabotage or terrorism," he said.

Chemical Weapons Destruction Program To Cost $3 Billion

LD2809185195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 28 (Interfax) — The federal program for destroying chemical weapons in Russia will require 14 trillion rubles (more than $3 billion) of budget money. The program was drawn up by the Defense Ministry with the participation of other ministries and agencies concerned and extends until the year 2010.

Under a draft due to be submitted to the government shortly, Russia will destroy 40,000 tonnes of war gases over the next 15 years. The chemicals are stored in the form of ammunition and in tanks at seven sites in Udmurtia and the Saratov, Kirov, Bryansk, Penza and Kurgan regions. Older chemical arms stockpiles containing mustard gas and lewisite in the community of Gorny (the Saratov region) and in Kambarka (Udmurtiya) will be the first to be destroyed.

The draft of the federal program also provides for attracting additional investment and the participation of foreign firms in building facilities to eliminate chemical weapons in Russia, as well as to set up a special international fund to support the chemical disarmament program.

Under the international chemical weapons ban convention signed in 1993, Russia is to start destroying chemical weapons no later than January 1995.

Space Forces Launch Satellite From Baykonur

LD2909051595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0440 GMT 29 Sep 95

[By correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 September (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Military Space Forces [RMSF] launched a regular satellite for the benefit of the Defense Ministry today. The "Soyuz-U" carrier rocket was launched from Baykonur's 31st launching pad at 0725 Moscow time [0425 GMT]. It will put into orbit a space apparatus of the "Cosmos" group. The RMSF's press-service has told ITAR-TASS.

Baykonur Accident Threatens 'Progress M-29' Launch

LD2809134595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1229 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Veronika Romanenkova and Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 28 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — An accident took place at the Baykonur cosmodrome yesterday during preparations for the launch of the "Progress M-29" cargo craft, which is due to take place on 8 October.

The cosmodrome phoned ITAR-TASS today to say that a railroad flatcar, which was to deliver the cargo craft to the launch pad, overturned while travelling at a speed of about 10 km an hour. The transport mounting unit, as the experts call the open freight car which carries the rockets, was travelling from the launch pad to the assembly test site. The "Soyuz" launcher from the "Progress" craft was to be loaded on to it there. However, on the way there the mounting unit came off the rails, damaging 20 meters of single track. The unit itself needs significant repairs.

Experts from the general machine-building design bureau are preparing for the launch in accordance with the agreements between the Defense Ministry and the Russian Space Agency on dividing up "military" and "civilian" space. However, they will now evidently have to seek help from the military space forces. Otherwise, since they do not have a reserve transport mounting unit or railroad workers, they will not manage to prepare for the launch of the freight vessel in time.

It is planned that the rockets should be set up by 6 October and launched on 8 October. "Progress M-29" was to supply the Mir complex with equipment, foodstuffs, and fuel.

Federal Assembly

Rybkin Favors Reintegrating Former Soviet Republics

LD2809184595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 28 (INTERFAX) — Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin holds a favorable attitude to the idea of reintegrating former Soviet republics, primarily Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. He made the statement at a Thursday news conference in Moscow.

In Rybkin's opinion such an alliance would be beneficial for politics and defense as well as the economy.

"I am convinced that people in these countries wish to unify and if a referendum were held on the matter, the results would be positive," Rybkin said.

He stressed that transnational groups in finance and industry are drawing the four countries to a common economic space probably even contrary to the intentions of politicians.

The speaker said politics should not dominate economy.

However, Rybkin felt that a closer union of the four countries would be unprofitable for Russia.

"We do not want to be simpletons and work to our own disadvantage. We want to work to the advantage of Russians. If the time comes to form a closer union than the CIS, a federation or confederation, it must be prompted by life, popular will, not run counter to it," Rybkin stressed.

Panel Criticizes Duma Lawmaking Activity

MM2909090595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Olga Burkaleva under "Law" rubric: "The Duma Also Needs a 'Corridor'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Parliament's role in legal reform has been discussed at a session of the Joint Commission on the Coordination of Legislative Activity, which includes representatives of the president, parliament, and the government. The session was held in fulfillment of the president's July edict "On Elaborating the Concept of Legal Reform in the Russian Federation." The commission chairman — Mikhail Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma — pointed out that during its last three sessions the State Duma adopted 328 federal laws, of which 236 have been signed by the Russian Federation president. He singled out from among the laws that have come into force three blocs of socially most significant laws. Twenty laws are devoted to questions of state building and 41 to the regulation of relations in the sphere of the economy and economic reforms, 25 laws are aimed at the population's social protection, and 15 at regulating relations in the sphere of law enforcement and the fight against crime. At the same time, only one of the federal constitutional laws enumerated in the Russian Federation Constitution has been adopted — that on the Constitutional Court. Meanwhile, Mikhail Mityukov said, parliament frequently oversteps the bounds of the constitution and of international law — which slows the lawmaking process. The effectiveness of parliament's work is also affected by its poor cooperation with political parties and public organizations.

Valeriy Savitskiy, the president's plenipotentiary representative on the Constitutional Court, gave parliament's work a C grade. In his view, no more than 25 full-weight laws were adopted, while the State Duma got too carried away with adopting political statements, of which to date there have been over 300. In his view, the whole trouble is the parliamentarians' lack of professionalism. It is characteristic that more performers and artists are running for the new corps of deputies, rather than lawyers, economists, and political scientists.

Yuriy Tikhomirov, first deputy director of the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Jurisprudence, voiced dissatisfaction with parliament's lawmaking activity. In his view the lawmaking process is rather uncontrolled. A state program of legislative activity is needed, at least for the next four years, and it must define the priorities (for example, in sections such as privatization, social protection, etc.).

The recommendations adopted on the basis of the results of the session name the implementation of the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution as the legislators' priority task. Particularly those provisions which necessitate the adoption of a number of federal constitutional laws and very important federal laws. The joint commission draws the legislators' attention to the fulfillment of the constitutional principle that national legislation should conform to international legal norms and standards, and it also recommends that active practical use be made of the model acts adopted by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS States. A point on the need to work out the idea of creating the State Council as an independent authoritative organ with the task of making expert appraisals of draft legislative acts gave rise to disagreements but was nonetheless included in the recommendations. It was also recommended that the adoption of a Federal Law on the Program of the State Duma's Law Drafting Work for the Term of Its Convocation be included in parliament's practical activity. The commission believes that broad and objective coverage of the legislative process in the mass media could be a guarantee of the successful coordination of legislative activity.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage: Military, Negotiations, Politics

Maslov: 13,000 Soldiers Withdrawn

LD2809214495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2013 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASSINOVSKAYA, Sept 28 (INTERFAX) — Deputy Commander of Federal Forces in Chechnya Pavel Maslov said today that about 8,000 interior troops servicemen and 5,000 defense ministry servicemen had already been pulled out of Chechnya.

Maslov spoke to a rally in the Assinovskaya village (western Chechnya), where he came together with members of the special commission for monitoring the military agreement's implementation after Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters claimed that federal troops were carrying out ethnic cleansing among Assinovskaya residents.

An INTERFAX correspondent reports that Maslov said he believed that the continuing shootouts in the village might be explained by the desire of "some forces to keep the situation tense."

Maslov urged Assinovskaya residents to set up a special body which would daily interact with federal military representatives. He said he believed that such a body might contribute to stabilizing the situation "by joint efforts."

Maslov said the withdrawal of Russian military units from the village would be carried out in line with the July 30 military agreement. He explained himself by saying that troops would be pulled out from Assinovskaya as soon as the disarmament of illegal armed formations in the Sunzhen and Achkhoy-Martan regions was completed.

An expert of the special observer commission from the Chechen side, Kazbek Makhashev, told the same rally that Maslov had ordered the commanders of the units stationed in the village "to end illegal actions towards Assinovskaya residents, in particular to stop limiting their movement by imposing a curfew."

Makhashev said Assinovskaya was the only Chechen village where so many Russian units were deployed despite the absence of militants "in a radius of 10 kilometers." He said three or four federal troop units were permanently present in the village. Makhashev said the Chechen side would request their withdrawal from Assinovskaya.

The rally involved about 500 Chechen residents, representatives of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the command of the Russian military units stationed in the village.

Six women are holding a hunger strike near the rally's venue. They told INTERFAX that they had been on a hunger strike for four days. The women said they demanded that Russian troops be pulled out from the village and the school for 400 pupils, where Russian servicemen currently live, be freed.

No Media Access in Assinovskaya

LD2809192295 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today turned out to be unsuccessful for journalists who were expecting to report today's main event, the visit to the village of Assinovskaya by representatives of the special monitoring commission and the command of the joint group of troops.

Yesterday, all interested media employees were invited to this event. The reporters were divided into two groups: The first was to leave Groznyy at 1000 [0700 GMT] with representatives of the special monitoring commission; and the second to fly at midday by helicopter from Khankala with the Russian military. Surprises began at 1100 when members of the special monitoring commission were found to have left for the meeting point a long time before without appearing in Groznyy. Slightly later, it became known that the military had already flown off some time ago leaving journalists on the landing strip.

It was later explained to us that the situation developing in Assinovskaya was an exclusively internal matter for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and only officials able to take specific decisions on the spot and implement them had flown there. Journalists will be told all the details on 30 September after the day's negotiations. It remains to be hoped that on 30 September the rumors will be dispelled and there are quite a lot of rumors. Not long ago at a demonstration in Assinovskaya local residents said that they would burn down their homes and leave the village if the troops were not withdrawn. On the other side, the Russians, a few of whom live in Assinovskaya, fear the withdrawal of the federal forces.

According to some information, four subunits are based in this district, three OMON [special purpose militia detachments] and a SOBR, a special rapid-reaction detachment. The command cannot manage at least one of these subunits fully. It is impossible to say at present how true all this is. We will have to wait until 30 September for official comment.

Troops Withdraw From Seven Villages

LD2809171795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1429 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 28 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — Sub-units of Russia's armed forces were withdrawn from seven villages of Nozhay-Yurt District today. The withdrawal was carried out in accordance with the agreement on a peaceful settlement of the situation in the republic.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned in the Committee for National Accord of Chechnya that subunits of the internal troops will stay in this district until the situation is fully stabilized. Nozhay-Yurt District consists of 60 villages and is located in the mountainous part of the republic, east of Groznyy. Local self-governing bodies have now been formed in the district. An administration and a district department of internal affairs consisting of 70 employees are operating in Nozhay-Yurt district center.

Until recently Nozhay-Yurt used to be a militants' stronghold. Several villages and the district center itself have been damaged in the course of military operations.

Lebanese Said To Assist Chechens

954F3561A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian Sep 95 No 39, p 2

[Unattributed report: "Chechen Fighters Being Trained by the Lebanese...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The weekly's Journalistic Investigation Department has received information to the effect that three bases of illegal armed elements, where in the very near future the insurgents plan to begin training specialists in reconnaissance and subversion activity, are located in the area of the Chechen village of

Kurchaloy. According to the information available, the saboteurs will be trained by instructors from Lebanon, whose arrival at the bases is expected at the end of September.

It has been learned from the same sources that a special medical commission, whose members were employees of the UN ESPRC rescue organization and of the Moskva humanitarian evacuation hospital, was working in Chechnya after the announcement of the armistice. This commission recorded traces of the use of toxic war gas in the area of the villages of Avtury, Bamut, and Roshin-Chu. Skin lesions caused by war gas were discovered among 90 percent of the peaceful population of the Avtury community.

Mikhaylov in Moscow To Review Talks

LD2709200195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Sept 27 (INTERFAX) — Russia's chief negotiator in Chechnya, nationalities minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov flew back from Groznyy to Moscow on Wednesday.

In an interview with INTERFAX before his flight, Mikhaylov said his return trip was "scheduled before and there is nothing extraordinary about it." More that, he said, it is in no way linked with yesterday's consultations between the Russian and Chechen delegations at the OSCE mission in Groznyy.

At the same time, Mikhaylov described the negotiations as proving difficult with the two sides failing to agree their positions to the end.

He said the main stumbling block was the dispute over the formation of Chechen self-defense units with all Moscow proposals being seen by the rebels as an attempt to try to review the military accord. However, Mikhaylov said work in this direction would be continued at sessions by the special observer commission.

On his trip to Moscow, Mikhaylov said he had to get down to ministerial business and other issues unrelated to Chechnya.

Our correspondent in Groznyy reports that Russian members of the observer commission and a number of Russian deputies, now in Groznyy, are expected to visit the Assinovskaya village to see for themselves how rebel-held weapons are being surrendered.

Dudayev Supporter Calls For UN Observers

LD2809135595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1053 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Sept 28 (INTERFAX) — A speaker of the Dudayev parliament Akhyad Idigov has urged the United Nations and foreign legislatures to send observer missions to monitor the realization of the military agreement with Russia, in Chechnya.

Moscow is doing everything to torpedo the military agreement, Idigov told INTERFAX Thursday.

The revision of schedules for the surrender of weapons by Chechens and a federal troop withdrawal is "another move to delay and, eventually, torpedo the realization of the military agreement," he said.

Revised schedules are to be confirmed by the special monitoring commission Saturday in Groznyy. Earlier plans for the surrender of weapons and troop withdrawal were frustrated.

According to Idigov, Chechnya wants peaceful coexistence with Russia in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States. To achieve this, it must hold democratic elections but such elections can be held only after the full realization of the military agreement which provides, among other things, for a federal troop withdrawal, Idigov said.

Reportage on Military, Civilian Power Supply Cuts

Irkutsk Bans Military Power Cuts

LD2909084495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0732 GMT 29 Sep 95

[By Vladimir Khodyi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IRKUTSK September 29 (ITAR-TASS) — The Irkutsk regional administration has decreed a ban on limitation practices in fuel and power supply to the Russian army.

The decree, addressed to the regional power sector, mandates "a stable and reliable supply to military units".

However, the regional administration simultaneously forwarded its letters to the Russian Defence and Interior Ministries, demanding that they immediately the army's power and fuel bills. [sentence as received]

Only one attempt has been so far made by the regional power service to cut off from power an army unit deployed in Transbaikalia.

However, the unit's commander acted decidedly by setting up a guard post at the nearest substation feeding the unit.

Officers Seize Plesetsk Substations

MM2809131195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 95 pp 1-2

[Report by Igor Yelkov: "Battle for Knife-Switch Continues at Plesetsk Cosmodrome"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arkhangelsk Oblast — The substations feeding the Plesetsk cosmodrome and missile test range were rapidly taken by the assault group without meeting with any resistance from the personnel. The four substations were taken under control by officers of the Military Space Forces and one "Arkhenergo" establishment was taken by officers of the Strategic Missile Forces. All were in uniform and had gas pistols.

The personnel were asked to work as usual and not to think of turning off "Plesetsk" (as demanded by the "Arkhenergo" leadership). But at one substation the controllers cut off the automatic machinery. The military switched it on again. Then one electricity worker, risking his life, turned off the electricity supply manually. The officers turned it on manually.

"Boys, what are we to tell our bosses?" the power workers implored. "We will be dismissed."

"Tell them what you want," the space missile men authorized them magnanimously. "You can say we tied you to the chairs."

Today Plesetsk's debt to the "Arkhenergo" joint-stock company is 18,081,300,365 rubles [R] not counting September's arrears.

What is Plesetsk? It is 1,760 square kilometers of Arkhangelsk taiga and control and measuring points all along the missiles' flight trajectory — from Novaya Zemlya to Yakutia. There are nine launchers at the cosmodrome and — let us put it this way — immeasurably more at the missile test range. Motor and railroads, the airfield, the city with 40,000 inhabitants.... In terms of the intensiveness of its launches Plesetsk is almost twice the size of Baykonur. All military programs are now being moved from Kazakhstan up here to the North. Launch complexes are being constructed for the promising "Vzlet" and "Rus" rockets and for the "Angara" heavy super launch vehicle.

Their common power shortage has brought the "cosmonauts" and the missile forces together. The latter have already carried out one launch under energy blackmail conditions — their hair almost turned gray with fright. The "cosmonauts" have two imminent launches: of a military satellite and a "Soyuz" rocket which will put in orbit the "Resurs" — a space craft for assessing Arkhangelsk Oblast's forest stocks. Even without the "Arkhenergo" ultimatum the cosmodrome has enough emergency situations. The delivery vehicles arrive from the plant in a very bad state. It is a rare refueling that manages without leaking. Not so long ago three officers received orders for their work in an emergency situation before a launch. Imagine for a second what would happen if the light were to go out as well during the next emergency.

I could not keep back my words of admiration when the missile forces showed me the "Topol" super-complex. An enormous container on a "MAZ" truck — 100 tonnes of metal and electronics. Without any cranes the 25-meter object assumes a vertical position and the charge hurls the rocket out of the container like a mine out of a mine thrower. With phenomenal accuracy it strikes a target 11,000 km away. Nothing better has yet been created in the world.

Even now, when we tell the Americans the exact whereabouts of each complex, the "Topol-M," because of its mobility, is virtually invulnerable. Only enemy tactical aircraft can destroy the complex. But the enemy aircraft still have somehow to overcome the air defense system....

Alas, today that is no problem. The power workers have switched off the power for the air defense radar in the zone monitoring air space above the cosmodrome. The radar operators have switched to the automatic power supply regime and their diesel engines have rapidly consumed the spare stock of solar oil — and the radars have become "blind." The air traffic controllers are sending passenger liners out of the uncontrolled space....

One can understand the power workers who are trying to recover debts. "Arkhenergo" itself now has nothing with which to pay the oil refineries. And if there is no fuel oil then a terrible winter awaits the Arkhangelsk Oblast cities. But since Plesetsk is a purely federal establishment and the state pays its accounts why should the controllers not turn off electricity to the Kremlin or the Ministry of Finance offices? After all it is they and not Plesetsk's military masters who are the real debtors.

"My subordinates at the time of our talk had a wages shortfall of R3.5 billion and had not been paid money for rations," Colonel Vyacheslav Koptev, acting chief of the cosmodrome, says. "But the officers are not organizing protest actions. Having taken the substations under guard we are resolving not our own tasks but state tasks. That is the only reason why the two planned launches will take place: both of the civilian 'Resurs' in the interests of Arkhangelsk Oblast and of the military satellite. It is our combat mission to ensure the latter's launch and we shall stop at nothing here."

Army Defaults; Cities Have 'No Fuel'

MM2809123895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Sep 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Arkhangelsk Oblast by K. Kiselev, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kiselev over video of cityscape, launcher in hangar] The power cut which affected certain facilities of the Mirnyy Cosmodrome was a logical development of months of litigation between the military and power workers. Vitally important facilities at the cosmodrome were not subject to the power cuts. However, the power cuts are going to continue, and they will affect more important facilities. This is the only measure that can bring a resolution of the conflict nearer. The military are side-stepping negotiations and repayment of debts. What is more, they are trying to recover their electricity supply at gunpoint. Meanwhile two major cities — Arkhangelsk and Severodvinsk — have no heating. There is no heating in kindergartens, hospitals, and schools, let alone homes. There is no fuel in Arkhangelsk. Some 200 billion rubles are needed to buy fuel. This roughly totals the amount owed by the military-industrial complex and civilian enterprises.

Power Cut At Sevmorput Shipyard

LD2809234195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2000 GMT on 28 September broadcasts a 2-minute video report from the Kola peninsula by G. Smirnova. She reports that, despite Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's recent instruction banning electricity suppliers from cutting off the power supply to major defense facilities, at midday on 28 September there was a power cut lasting one hour at the Sevmorput shipyard where combat vessels are repaired. Only after intervention by Rear Admiral Valeriy Panteleyev, the Northern Fleet's deputy commander, and after an armed patrol had been posted near the transformer station was the electricity supply restored. Panteleyev says that at the time of the cut a scheduled docking operation had been taking place to take a ship with a nuclear powerplant out of the dock after repair and he describes the situation as very unpleasant and "disgraceful." The video includes footage of an armed sailor near transformer station, a brief interview with V. Panteleyev, and submarines and surface combat vessels at Sevmorput shipyard.

Fleet Commander Calls Cuts 'Sabotage'

MM2909094795 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Sep 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast: Video report from Murmansk Oblast by Vladimir Novikov, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Novikov over video of moored submarines in bay, interior of nuclear submarine] How can a naval base be knocked out without firing a single shot and without using terrorists? Murmansk and Arkhangelsk Oblast Inspectorate for Power Engineering Control staffers know the answer to this question. What is more, they are trying to apply their knowledge in practice. They are simply cutting off the power supply to military garrisons.

This could have serious consequences. After all, even minor hitches in electricity supply jeopardize control over nuclear power generation plant on nuclear submarines and surface vessels and the storage of various types of weapons, quite apart from causing a series of other problems. This can imperil the life and health people and the environment.

Only yesterday, for example, the power supply to the Gadzhiyevo and Zapadnaya Litsa garrisons was cut off three times. To prevent an emergency situation, the Northern Fleet was forced to burn its monthly quota of diesel fuel.

[O. Yerofeyev, commander of the Northern Fleet] I am warning everyone that I will view such actions as sabotage. This does not just inflict damage on the fleet; it is tantamount to damaging the state.

[Novikov over more footage of the bay] Naturally, the fleet command is adopting tough measures. However, in the prevailing situation this is absolutely essential.

Vladimir Novikov, Oleg Kulya reporting for Russian Public Television from Severomorsk. [video shows extensive footage of moored submarines in bay, interior and crew of submarine, brief interview with Yerofeyev, more views of subs in bay]

Naval Commander Cited on NATO, Nuclear Submarines

LD2809173295 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Report by "Segodnya" correspondent Aleksandr Naumov from Kaliningrad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Naval Commander Admiral Feliks Gromov is paying a three-day visit to

Kaliningrad region. Having studied the situation at the Baltic Fleet's main base, he noted the good state of its personnel and the satisfactory condition of its hardware in an interview with our television company. As for relations with the NATO military bloc:

[Begin Gromov recording] I think that Russia was ignored in some way. It is Russia's opinion that NATO should not be allowed to use such great force in Yugoslavia. We must proceed from the state interests of Russia, above all taking into account our friendship and our relations with all other countries. [end recording]

On the problems of Russia's nuclear submarine fleet, which has served its turn, Adm. Gromov said:

[Begin Gromov recording] There are roughly more than 140 such submarines in the Navy, more than 140, but less than half have had their nuclear sector unloaded. This is the most difficult issue. When the electricity supply is cut off, including from the base, this means additional danger and additional measures. [end recording] [video shows Gromov seated behind a desk, Baltic Fleet]

Yeltsin Aide Thought To Oppose Cossacks

954F3561B Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian Sep 95 No 39, p 2

[Unattributed report: "Enemy of the Cossacks—in the Kremlin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "An enemy of Russia's Cossacks and the Russian Army is entrenched in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation," Viktor Mironov, a deputy chairman of the Committee for Security of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, declared. "This is N. Yegorov, the president's aide for national security...."

According to V. Mironov, none of the presidential edicts and no government decree on the Cossacks have been realized thanks to this gentleman. Specifically, power structures based on Cossack communities for the Migration Service have simply not been formed. The split in the Cossack communities continues. Seven chieftains "rule" in Kuban alone. The process of reform of the army via the formation of Cossack army units guaranteeing if only the disappearance of such a vice as hazing has simply not begun. Why would the present generals want Cossacks—they would not be building generals' dachas or going to fetch potatoes for the generals' wives.

Sakhalin Region Files Suit Against Japanese Poachers

LD2809135295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1053 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK, Sept 28 (INTERFAX) — The Sakhalin Administration intends to file a suit of criminal proceedings against the captains of two Japanese schooners detained by Russian border guards in Russian territorial waters Wednesday.

A patrol boat of the Pacific border district discovered 10 Japanese schooners with a catch of octopus at 4:20, Moscow time, Wednesday, in the La Perouse Strait. The Japanese were poaching eight kilometers into Russian territorial waters.

The border guards opened warning fire and, when their commands were ignored by the Japanese, shot to kill. As a result, the captain of one of the schooners, 21-year-old Kadzuyuki Inagawa, was wounded in a leg. It was found later that as many as 50 bullets hit the schooner.

The deputy commander of the Russian patrol boat Sergey Maltsev says that only small arms were used in a bid to detain the Japanese poachers. If the border guards had resorted to the use of artillery, the Japanese schooners would have been smashed to smithereens, Maltsev said.

Another schooner, with the father of Kadzuyuki Inagawa aboard, made a voluntary attempt to dock with the patrol boat and was also detained.

Both schooners were escorted to the city of Nevelsk and Kadzuyuki Inagawa was taken to the city hospital.

Article Sees Massive Military 'Drive' for Local Power

MM2909103995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Sep 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Valeriy Kornev: "Military Dying for Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Volgograd — Volgograd with its population of 1 million has become the first city in Russia where the military have decided to take hold of virtually all authority — both administrative and representative.

Now, a matter of days before the elections of the city's mayor and duma deputies scheduled for 1 October, garrison personnel here are displaying the kind of activeness that makes it look as though they have been put on combat alert to perform a particularly important mission. Enlisted men and NCO's have plastered the city with posters and pamphlets carrying pictures of people in army uniform. Armored personnel carriers accompanied by a band and even by honor guard companies are driving around the rayons. With this kind of entourage military orators are trying to persuade people to vote for military candidates, who if elected would, they say, guarantee the people of Volgograd to restore order, maintain legality, and strengthen discipline. Never before in any election campaign have people here seen this kind of massive, thrusting campaigning.

The current election campaign here has been organized by Volgograd Mayor Yuriy Chekhov, who has held this post for almost four years, having been appointed by presidential edict along with the other heads of "million-strong" cities. Chekhov had great difficulty in getting permission to hold the elections.

"I think they should be held," Chekhov told me confidently. "It is one thing when you are treated as an appointee and quite another when you win a vote of confidence."

There was no doubt that Yuriy Chekhov would have rivals in running for mayor. But it came as a surprise when Colonel Viktor Skopenko, deputy commander of the eighth garrison corps for educational work, emerged among the contenders for the post of head of the Volgograd administration. The simultaneous mass nomination of military candidates for city duma seats came as an even greater surprise. There are 24 vacancies on the duma. And there are around three dozen military candidates competing for these seats. More than any group of candidates nominated by the various other parties.

During my talk with Viktor Skopenko details emerged to suggest that the military's massive drive for power is by no means a Volgograd phenomenon.

It turns out that Lev Rokhlin, commander of the Eighth Guards Army Corps, is first on the list of this mayoral contender's agents. A pamphlet bearing his signature is being circulated in which Rokhlin urges the people of Volgograd to elect Col. Skopenko administration head: "We cannot view the people's misfortunes with indifference. We see the solution in giving you honest, organized people from our ranks, people untainted by corruption, bold, courageous people ready to stand against any crime." I asked Skopenko: "Did you ask Rokhlin to be your agent?" "No," he replied, "the commander offered his services." As for the Defense Ministry, the mayoral candidate said that the Volgograd military's initiative has support there. "You should have seen this for yourselves," he added, "after hearing Grachev's speech regarding the plans to nominate a large number of military ppeople or the State Duma."

The mayoral candidate's support group is making such vigorous efforts to guarantee him election success that their inordinate zeal is causing a furor. A few days ago they brought an appeal to the local newspaper editorial office signed by a number of organizations calling for "votes to be cast in the mayoral elections for our candidate Viktor Gennadyevich Skopenko." But the next day the leaders of these organizations invited journalists to attend a news conference at which it was officially stated that neither they personally nor their organizations had clapped eyes on or signed any appeal. Admittedly, one "signatory" did nonetheless turn up — he was a contract serviceman from the selfsame eighth corps.

At the latest session of the city electoral commission Col. Skopenko received a number of serious complaints to the effect that he had violated several provisions of the Election Law at once: The posters and pamphlets did not carry details regarding the publishing house that carried out the order or of the circulation, so that the expenditure could not be monitored; the colonel was abusing his official position by using military and other equipment for his election campaign along with the band and the honor guard company; moreover, unlike other candidates he did not consider it necessary to submit accounts of his expenditure.

"I was extremely annoyed," Viktor Mats, head of the Krasnoarmeyskiy Rayon administration, said, "that at the time when Skopenko's team with their band and military equipment were driving off to 'Khimprom' and then to 'Kaustik' and pompously arranging meetings with voters, I also received military men bearing a petition from an antiaircraft brigade with which we are on friendly terms. They asked us to give them just 10 tonnes of solar oil and the same amount of gasoline. They said that they had no fuel and no money to buy it." However, in addition to the money for the elections, vast sums of money have been found for the Volgograd military to build their own television center. Wanting to have your own television channel also squares with wanting to be an influential political force.

However, among the military, as I saw for myself during talks with many of them, the plan to get into the local authorities en masse is eliciting hostility and even a sharply negative response. Colonel S. Leonov, deputy chief of staff of the Kachin Pilots Higher Military Aviation School, who is Skopenko's equal in rank, deemed it necessary to voice his views publicly. In a letter printed in the OBLASTNYYE VESTI newspaper Leonov told the mayoral candidate something that goes without saying: "It is one thing to lead a military collective, albeit a large one. And quite another to lead hundreds of thousands of people....

You cannot drill them, you cannot command them to march in one direction." After all, Col. Leonov reminded Col. Skopenko, we are talking about a city "with a population of 1 million, with its own highly complex economic, social, and psychological problems. What special knowledge, what experience, what kind of wisdom and even mentality are required here? Anything but military knowledge...."

Citing the fact that he joined Kachin Aviation School to become a professional military pilot, Col. Leonov made the following reasonable comment: "That is what military cadres are meant to do, not 'command and rule' cities and villages."

I cannot help sharing Col. Leonov's opinion and his misgivings. Order must of course be restored in the city and the country. But by what means? When I asked what he would do if he became mayor Col. Skopenko replied: "I will be blunt with anyone I have to."

Economic Issues

New 1,000-Ruble Banknote Introduced

LD2909085495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0823 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW September 29 (ITAR-TASS) — The Central Bank of Russia introduces into the circulation 1000-rouble banknotes of 1995 issue, the bank's press service told ITAR-TASS today.

The banknotes, sized 137 x 61 mm, are smaller than the current ones and are made of white paper having violet and red fibers within it.

The banknotes' have a red-violet hue.

The paper has local water-marks on left and right margins of the banknotes.

The broad margin features a sailship from the memorial city stella of Vladivostok.

The narrow margin carries number 1000.

The paper has a vertical protective line which is visible against light.

Receipt of the new, as well as currently circulating 1000-rouble banknotes is mandatory at the nominal value for all types of payments, deposits, letters of credit and transfer in the entire territory of the Russian federation.

New-Style $100 Bill Likely To Devalue Old Bills

MM2909092795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "The Great Franklin Presented to People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday in Washington the U.S. Department of the Treasury publicly presented the new $100 bill, which will begin to be gradually introduced into circulation in place of the old one from the beginning of next year. The size and many details of the old bill have been retained, but the portrait of the inventor of the lighting-conductor, B. Franklin, has been enlarged and the bills have been treated in new ways against forgery.

Treasury representatives are tirelessly explaining to devotees of the dollar in all the countries of the world that the introduction of the new bill in no way abolishes the old one and lowers its exchange rate. To this end, they went to Russia and exhorted our bankers not to deceive customers when exchanging the old bills for the new ones. But you can say with almost absolute certainty that this ploy will frankly not work: Fewer rubles will be given in exchange for the old bills, and more will be asked for the new.

Finance Ministry Eager To Restructure External Debt

MK2909131895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Finance Ministry Expects To Receive Net External Credits Worth $6 Billion. Some $1.4 Billion Will Be Allocated for National Economy Needs; the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency Will Get $200 Million"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between the Russian Federation and the International Monetary Fund on coordination of economic reform parameters to solve the issue of an expanded-program credit are to begin this week, said Mikhail Kasyanov, head of the Finance Ministry's Foreign Credits and External Debt Department, at a session of the State Duma working group for the 1996 draft budget on Friday [22 September]. According to him, the expected amount of the three-year credit is about $18 billion. The first tranche of the credit to be received by Russia in 1996 if the talks are successful will amount to $4 billion.

Mr. Kasyanov said that Russia is close to signing a long-term agreement with the London Club, comprising 96 foreign commercial banks — the second of Russia's largest creditor banks after the Paris Club — on restructuring the former USSR's external debt to the approximate amount of $26 billion. He said that the Russian side "made good progress" in its negotiations with the London banking association, which is ready to accept Russia's stand on an equal distribution of the former USSR's debt repayment over a period of at least 25 years.

At the same time, according to Mr. Kasyanov, the restructuring time frame proposed by Russia has been one of the main obstacles to date to the signing of a similar agreement with the Paris Club of official creditors of the former USSR. Western creditors, Mr. Kasyanov went on to explain, consider the 25-year period for the credit repayment to be excessively "ambitious" — although, the Finance Ministry department head believes, "Russia has a right to expect understanding of its position since it has been repaying its own debts, as well as interest on them, in full and on time." Although the May round of talks with the Paris Club failed, the talks can be resumed in October. According to a Finance Ministry spokesman, the outcome of the negotiations depends to a large extent on whether an agreement is reached with the IMF on granting Russia an expanded-program credit. According to the draft 1996 federal budget, the external debt repayment will amount to $8.5 billion, including $5.2 billion in interest payments. In this case, the Russian Federation's external debt, including the former USSR's debt, will stand on 1 January 1997 at $124.1 billion.

Mr. Kasyanov said the net amount of Russia's external borrowing in 1996, minus the repaid portion of the principal, will amount to $5.9 billion. Along with the IMF loan, some $3.2 billion of tied credits are expected to be obtained from foreign governments to purchase equipment, baby food etc. Another $2.4 billion will be provided by foreign governments, and the European and International Banks for Reconstruction and Development are expected to extend $800 million. The average repayment period is eight years. Germany, which is Russia's major creditor as before, accounts for $1.4 billion; $200 million will be given by the United States; and $150 million by France. When asked by members of the working group to specify the departments to which tied foreign credits will be channeled, Mr. Kasyanov replied that $1.4 billion are meant for the national economy as a whole, and $200 million will be handed over to the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency to purchase computer equipment to establish telecommunications between ministries.

Chubays Cites GKI Credit, Strategic Enterprises

MK2909083595 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 26 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Natalya Samoylova: "State Determines Object of Pledge"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Finished!" This exclamation must have escaped from the lips of all those who, for six months now, have been watching the epic entitled "bank credits for pledge of shares in privatized enterprises" after they learned yesterday about the passage of a Goskomimushchestvo [GKI, or State Committee for the Administration of State Property] directive. It determines the first 29 enterprises whose shares will be handed over in pledge on a competitive basis. As First Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays stated, the 3 trillion rubles the GKI is hoping to receive as credit will be added to the budget as early as late November. He then announced another epoch-making decision: The government has determined a list of strategically important enterprises whose shares are to be owned by the state. "This means that tens of thousands of enterprises not included on this list can be freely privatized," Chubays announced.

The first deputy premier could not refrain from making an announcement that struck some notes of the "battle for voucher privatization." Using the same tone he used when fending off [then Supreme Soviet speaker] Ruslan Khasbulatov's attacks, Chubays addressed the opponents of the second stage of privatization by saying he was sorry "to have to disappoint them, because the budget assignment in regard to revenues from privatization will be fulfilled." He backed his optimism by arguing that all the decisions required have been made: Simultaneously signed was a government directive reserving 2,947 enterprises as federal property. The remaining blocks of state-owned shares will be sold; moreover, a schedule has already been drawn up for revenues from privatization to come in, and weekly government sessions will monitor its observance.

The substantive part of the GKI directive, however, gives rise to many questions. First and foremost, the sizes of blocks handed over in pledge have not been determined. The entire technology of auctions, including this fundamentally important aspect, has been placed in the care of a specially formed commission. Yet another curious fact: The GKI has recommended ONEKSIMbank, which has been openly favored by the government of late, as the place for keeping funds transmitted by participants in auctions as a down payment.

Much as was assumed, the participation of nonresidents in these auctions will be limited, although, as Anatoliy

Chubays admitted, "as regards a very small group of enterprises." The GKI has demonstrated goodwill, and issuers have formally obtained the right to formulate additional requirements for auction participants — they are supposed, within ten days, to submit their proposals to the commission. Anatoliy Chubays admitted, although in passing, the possibility of conflicts with directors [of enterprises] as the pledge scheme comes to be implemented. He still stressed the fact that the commission will operate in keeping with its powers.

In winding up, Anatoliy Chubays, in anticipation of more charges of a "total sellout of the state," noted that, while privatization had already entered the phase of being "costly," the country still has enough state-owned property to sell for years, if not decades.

Optimistic on Privatization Revenues

MK2909092995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker: "Government Is Placing Privatization Revenues Under Strict Control"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anatoliy Chubays chose to disappoint "all those who were making political capital by alleging that the government has foiled the program of budget revenues from privatization." He asserted firmly at yesterday's news conference that 8.7 trillion rubles [R] are to be received under this budget item. He said that presale preparation of enterprises for tenders and auctions has been completed and the legal and political basis to ensure their success has been created. The shares of 29 enterprises will be offered in pledge in exchange for loans to the government. This original idea of the consortium of banks has, however, undergone changes, so that now such elite enterprises will be offered up for free competition as "LUKoil, "YUKOS," "Surgutneftegaz," and "Sidanko," all oil companies; the metallurgical enterprises of Novolipetsk, Oskol, Chelyabinsk, and the West Siberian Metallurgical Plant, as well as "Norilskiy Nikel," particularly singled out by the deputy premier. On the list are also the largest ports and shipping lines, the Bratsk Timber Complex, the Arkhangelsk Pulp-and-Paper Combine, and the renowned Sukhoy Design Bureau.

As was explained by acting State Property Committee [SPC] Chairman Alfred Kokh, the Committee will coordinate the terms of competition with the issuing enterprises within the next 10 days. Two more weeks will be needed to prepare information reports on the tenders. Then, a month will be needed for the buyers to send in tenders, and "by late October the money will already be in the budget," Mr. Kokh asserted. According to his "conservative" estimate, the scheme of pledging shares against loans to the government will yield no less than R3 trillion to the budget.

Mr. Chubays added to this that the government and the SPC were placing the incoming privatization revenues under strict 15-day control: Some R200 billion out of the total privatization revenues, currently worth R2 trillion, have already been received by the federal budget. The government's decree signed by the premier yesterday will help collect the dues. It specified 2,947 enterprises making up the backbone of national security: Their shares have been made federal property for an unlimited time. On the other hand, state shares of nearly 5,000 enterprises will be offered for sale at investment tenders and auctions.

According to Mr. Chubays, the buyers will include large commercial banks which have survived the crisis; issuing enterprises wishing to acquire the shares for themselves; individuals; and foreign investors, whose interest in the matter is "simply enormous," as the first deputy premier put it. He mentioned that in some cases stipulated by law, foreign investors' access to the tenders will be limited. Mr. Chubays went on to say that the government did not set its sights on selling as much as possible in 1995. The sale of especially interesting enterprises has been postponed until next year. The draft 1996 budget targets privatization revenues at R11.2 trillion, and the privatization motto, according to Mr. Chubays, will be "to sell for higher prices, not just more."

Coal Industry Official Offers Crisis Resolutions

LD2809204495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1920 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — The establishment of an insurance fund to pay for coal production will help normalize the situation in Kuzbass, while financial credits granted by the government to coal miners will improve the situation in the coal industry in general, said president of the state-run "Rosugol" company Yuriy Malyshev.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS today Malyshev said that these proposals had been approved by first vice-premier Anatoly Chubays at a conference on Wednesday [27 September]. The conference was devoted to the critical situation in the Kuzbass region, where an all-Kuzbass protest action is expected to be staged by the miners demanding overdue wages.

Malyshev believes that the critical situation in Kuzbass is connected with the deterioration of the financial situation in the coal industry and growing insolvency of consumers, predominantly metal works and energy enterprises. Malyshev noted that only 7.5 trillion roubles had been allocated to the coal industry out of 10 trillion roubles envisaged by the state budget. Another factor which worsened the situation in Kuzbass was the deterioration of economic conditions following the introduction of a rouble fixed exchange rate band. As a result, metal works' revenues have declined, which triggered more debts to the coal industry, Malyshev said.

Falling Demand Triggers Cut in Gas Extraction

MM2909105995 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Petroleum News Agency: "'Gazprom' Cuts Gas Extraction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company, which extracts 94 percent of Russia's natural gas, is planning to extract 560 billion cubic meters of gas in 1995, 10 billion cubic meters down on last year's level. According to V. Remizov, deputy chairman of the "Gazprom" board, the fall in gas extraction is due to the recent decline in demand for this energy source among consumers in Russia and a number of countries in the near abroad. The fall in demand for gas is in turn linked to the fall in industrial production in these countries and also to certain restrictions on gas shipments that "Gazprom" has been forced to make in view of nonpayments by customers. Nevertheless, experts forecast an increase in gas consumption by the year 2010 of 32.6 percent on 1994.

Power Industry To Introduce State of Emergency

MM2809124695 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Mikhaylov: "Winter Is Nigh"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An all-Russia conference of leaders of republic, kray, and oblast administrations and of joint-stock companies involved in power generation, electrification, and power stations has taken place in Moscow. One of the main issues examined with the participation of First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets and Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik is the sector's work during the winter period.

Despite chronic nonpayments and the absence of 1.3 trillion rubles in federal treasury funds, power industry workers managed to carry out 67-94 percent of major and medium repairs, depending on the category of equipment. However, even finished equipment may stand idle owing to lack of fuel, Anatoliy Dyakov, president of the "YeES Rossii" Russian Joint-Stock Company, noted. Thus, the coal plan has been only 87 percent fulfilled while the figure for fuel oil is even lower — just 83 percent.

But those are average figures. In regions like the Far East, the Northwest, the Center, and Altay Kray the fuel reserve situation is simply disastrous. In this connection during the coming fall and winter period the conference decided to introduce a state of emergency in the power industry. This means tightening up the procedure for suspending power supplies to nonpaying customers.

During the conference, specific joint actions involving power industry personnel and regional administrations were formulated to overcome the crisis of nonpayments among customers and measures were also outlined whose implementation should enhance the role of the Law "On State Regulation of Tariffs for Power and Heating."

As for the population, the conference advocated that tariffs for power and heating that reflect their real cost be introduced next year.

Government Expert Optimistic About Curbing Inflation

MK2909100395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 22 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker: "'An Anti-Inflationary Potential Has Been Developed' in the Economy. Importation of Food Prevails on the Russian Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Sergey Pavlenko, head of the government's Working Center for Economic Reforms (WCER), despite the fact that the inflation pattern this year is similar to that in 1994, the situation in September has shown a fundamental difference. An anti-inflationary bastion has emerged in the economy, which will prevent the traditional autumn upsurge in prices. The restraining potential is due to the slowdown in the growth rate of the money supply, the constraining effect of the ruble-dollar peg, and significant hard currency holdings accrued by the Central Bank. Therefore, Mr. Pavlenko believes that "the danger of an attack on the ruble from this side has been positively eliminated."

In his opinion, the growth of prices will be hampered by the government's August decision by which natural monopolists (the transport, communications, and fuel and energy sectors) were restrained in their freedom to raise prices for their production by more than 0.7 of the monthly price index in industry.

Unlike many experts, the WCER head is very optimistic about the prospects of having the revenue component of the 1995 budget replenished. He deems it quite feasible that the budget will receive, as early as October, at least

3 trillion rubles from auction sales of privatized enterprises' shares pledged against credits to the government. Another 2.5 trillion rubles, according to Mr. Pavlenko, will be provided by money auctions. "Even if we prove unable to receive the 8.7 trillion rubles envisioned in the budget, the bulk of this amount can be raised," he concluded.

The economist agreed with the general statistical data indicating that living standards had dropped since the fall of 1994. He emphasized, however, that purchasing power, adjusted for inflation, had stabilized since March. At the same time, Mr. Pavlenko's assessment of the economic stabilization phenomenon was not unequivocal: On the one hand, it is good that the market is beginning to operate proceeding from anti-inflationary expectations. The reverse side, however, is that the chances for a rapid, inflation-based enrichment have been almost entirely eliminated, which is psychologically novel and could prompt a desire to go back to the habitual political tools.

Speaking about the situation on the consumer market, the WCER head recalled the summer's panicky forecasts by some economists and politicians, who had claimed that the introduction of a ruble-dollar peg and an increase in import duties would have a negative effect on commodity market prices. This has not happened, and in large cities — where the anxiety was highest — the growth of food prices has even slowed down. In other words, the government's tariff policy has not affected the public negatively. Mr. Pavlenko was a bit concerned over the fact that the share of imported products on the Russian food market has for the first time exceeded 50 percent. There is also a trend toward a reduction in the stock of commodities in large cities, which Mr. Pavlenko attributed partly to the seasonal factor and partly to the rapid development of a distribution network, with preference given to selling "like hot cakes" rather than having products stored.

Regions Will Be Taxed To Fund Welfare

MM2909083995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko with commentary by Labor Minister G. Melikyan: "Forecast of Level of Unemployment Commented on by Russian Federation Minister G. Melikyan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Government Center for the Economic Situation has produced a forecast of the country's level of unemployment for September-November broken down by region.

The most difficult situation is to be observed in Ingushetia, where there is 30-percent unemployment. This is followed in terms of the seriousness of the situation by Russia's industrial heartland — the Central Region. In Ivanovo, Pskov, Yaroslavl, Vladimir, and Kostroma Oblasts the armies of "surplus" workers will vary from 6.5 to 10 percent of the able-bodied population.

A difficult situation will obtain in Kalmykia, Mordvinia, Udmurtia, Chuvashia, and Dagestan, where unemployment will reach a level of 4.5 to 7 percent.

Pretty high unemployment levels are expected in the Northern Region (Karelia, Komi, and Arkhangelsk, Vologda, and Murmansk Oblasts) — 4.34 percent in November. And in Kaliningrad Oblast, too, where 4.26 percent is the expected figure.

The level of unemployment for Russia as a whole will grow June through November from 2.38 to 2.73 percent (2 million to 2.29 million people). The number of those receiving benefit will increase from 1,524,000 to 1,678,000.

Russian Federation Labor Minister G. Melikyan commented on the prevailing situation as follows:

[Melikyan] An increase in the level of unemployment is to be expected in connection with the revival of production. Having no more scope for retaining surplus workers by increasing the prices of their goods, enterprises are starting to dismiss them. Previously "concealed" unemployment is therefore coming to the surface. Enterprises now, after all, have to cut the prime cost of their products and reduce their production costs, of which workers' wages are a part. Unemployment rose by 3 percent in August alone.

The most important thing now is to look after the unemployed. The situation could become critical when the regional employment funds do not have enough resources to do this.

Unfortunately, the oblasts which are the focus of light industry and the defense industry have nothing with which to top up their employment funds or pay benefits, let alone retrain people, create jobs, or organize public works schemes. There is a city in Ivanovo Oblast with one main enterprise, which is at a standstill, and where unemployment is running at 10 percent.

In such cases federal-level assistance and the redistribution of resources are essential. But today each region retains 80 percent of its contributions while only 20 percent goes to the center. This proportion has proved too small. The government has submitted a proposal to the State Duma to raise the center's share to 30 percent in 1966. Of course, this is disadvantageous to regions with low unemployment. They have used the surpluses from their funds to support their industry. But there is clearly no other way.

IZVESTIYA Examines Regional Budget Problems

MM2909085495 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 2

[Article by economist Aleksandr Deykin: "Specter of Budget Federalism Still Stalks Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is hard to call the resolution of the problem of budget federalism in the draft 1996 budget satisfactory. The reasons for the persistent decentralization of budgetary functions in Russia can probably be divided into two groups. Political reasons — the desire on the part of Federation components to gain economic autonomy and use it to confirm their political "sovereignty." Economic reasons — the desire on the part of the center to "dump" onto the regions all problems with no direct connection with the functions of the central authorities (such as defense, international problems, environmental protection, and so forth).

The dividing up and transfer of budgetary functions has moved slowly and with difficulty, in spurts, since 1991. The adaptation of both levels to the new position has still not been completed.

The fate of the third party to interbudgetary relations in Russia — local self-government, the question of which, while long since outlined in law, seemingly does not yet exist in real life and draft budgets — still remains poorly "sketched out." As a result, the local authorities have obtained fewer rights than they had before the reforms began.

The key problems of budget federalism include questions of equalizing incomes, the sensible and fair distribution of expenditure functions, the retention of sources of funding, methods for dividing up financial responsibility between levels of power, and ways to distribute social functions among authorities and enterprises.

The uneven nature of economic and social development in Russia's 89 regions and its ethnic and geopolitical features introduce a mass of complications and engender a desire for "budget sovereignty" on the part of "unhappy" oblasts and republics. The emerging tendency to "extract" from the center the right to a "single-channel" system is dangerous in that it jeopardizes both the financial and political viability of the Russian Federation — it was the republics' spontaneous budgetary "sovereignization" that triggered the collapse of the Union.

At the same time, the desire to place all regions on an equal footing, failing to take account of the attraction of certain Federation components to a "special" budget arrangement and the reasons for it, cannot be wholly successful either. The grounds for such demands are particularly intensified when there are valuable natural resources in the region in question. It should also be recalled that this kind of "special arrangement" is easy to bring in but virtually impossible to abolish painlessly.

The processes of budgetary decentralization are becoming complex even in unitary state systems such as France or Britain. The ethnopolitical circumstances in federal states, increasing the complexity and delicacy of the problems that arise, require particularly well thought-out ways to resolve them.

India, which is similar to Russia in terms of the diversity of its interregional differences and the existence of particular demands on the part of a number of areas, uses a very complex system for redistributing income. There are three types — transfers from the center to the states, separate formulas for distributing revenue between the center and the states and among the states themselves, and a formula for so-called "planning deductions" which take account not only of per-capita income, tax revenue, size of population, and so forth, but also of a separately calculated "level of backwardness" and "special problems" in the regions. Conversely, Nigeria has a unified formula for budget redistribution.

But a condition of the successful functioning of the mechanism of interbudgetary relations that is common to all is that the system be open. According to Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the State Duma Budget Committee, the continuing active practice of distributing financial resources between Russian regions on the basis of "special" decisions by the country's top leaders fundamentally undermines any positive intentions on the part of the architects of the Russian Federation's new budgetary system.

In practice, however, these intentions are currently being implemented in a rather primitive and blunt way. The approach used to shape interbudgetary relations this year will be maintained almost unchanged next year as well. It is slightly better than previous approaches, but there is a solid high barrier that prevents it from being ideal.

The budgets of all Russia's regions will be based on unified normative deductions — 25 percent of value-added tax [VAT], 22 percent of profits tax, 90 percent of income tax on individuals, 50 percent of excise duty on Russian-made liquor, vodka, and liqueurs, and 100 percent of excise duty on other Russian-made goods subject to excise duty, with the exception of oil, gas, gasoline, and cars. These figures take account of the planned increase in VAT to 21 percent and a number of other changes. It is planned to give Federation components and organs of local self-government the right to introduce regional and local taxes of 2 and 5 percent of labor remuneration funds respectively.

The drafters' notorious "toughness" was seen, in particular, in the calculations of expenditure on pay by region — an index figure of 400 was used to recalculate 1994 wages to a 1991 base (an innovation in the 1996 budget), at the same time as an overall consumer price index of 773 was used to recalculate material expenditure over the same period.

The heart of the system of interbudgetary relations remains the procedure for distributing federal aid to the regions. To this end the 1996 federal budget is setting up a federal fund for regional support on the basis of 15 percent of federal budget tax revenue (excluding 10 percent of income tax on individuals and total customs import duties). The monies obtained will be used for two funds — aid to "regions in need of support" and aid to "regions in particular need of support."

The first status will go to those territories where average per-capita income in 1996 will be less than per-capita income across all Russian regions. The second status will be granted to those regions where total budget revenue (taking account of federal aid for "particular need") will be less than the total forecast budget expenditure in 1996 (excluding capital investment). Monies will be divided up between the two parts of the fund in the ratio of 65.79 to 34.21.

Aid is planned for 60 regions under the first status and for 46 under the second; the total number of all recipients will be 75 [as published]. Initial per-capita income per region ranges from 88,500 rubles [R] for Chechnya to R10.2 million in the Yamalo-Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug. The largest share of expenditure out of federal transfers is financed by the Ingush Republic (89 percent), Chechnya (61 percent), Kalmykia (52 percent), and others. Moscow will get nothing. St. Petersburg will get 3 percent of its total expenditure. On average the proportion of transfers in regional recipients' budgets will be 13.8 percent or R38 trillion. The equalization of revenue will be a natural result. But it will not be possible to satisfy all the Russian regions' varied demands within the framework of such a primitive approach.

Grain Harvest Totaled; Bread Price To Double

MM2909093595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Andrey Kirillov: "How Will We Fill Ourselves Up?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The harvest has been brought in. It is time to compare its prospects with reality. For example, only recently information was received from various sources that Russia was in a position to scrap grain purchases completely. According to other data, when people start baking bread from flour from this year's harvest its price could leap threefold or fourfold. Who is right?

Let us begin by saying that until the new grain has been received for processing it is premature to talk about the real price of bread made from it. But what we can do now is compile a fairly accurate picture of the way the situation is developing.

We have learned from extremely competent sources that while 70 million tonnes of grain crops were harvested in Russia last year, only 57 million tonnes were harvested this year. These figures are considered a virtual secret, but nothing can be discussed without them.

Neither is it irrelevant to know that, while in past years at this time we had between 14 and 20 million tonnes in state reserves left over from the last harvest, we now have only 5 million....

This is relevant to the question of whether Russia is now in a position to scrap grain imports from abroad. In addition, another fact should be taken into account: Year by year our wheat is deteriorating in quality — this is also being affected by the shortage of mineral fertilizers and the virtual abandonment of the use of herbicides [word as published], which were the only method of combating the shield bug, for example, which spoiled a lot of grain this summer in the North Caucasus.

There was a time when we had 12-14 million tonnes each of valuable and strong varieties of wheat. Now we have only 210,000 tonnes. An appreciable difference, as you can see. Especially when we have harvested 30 million tonnes of wheat instead of the usual 38-42 million.

But according to another popular viewpoint, which should not be discounted, purchases for state reserves do not easily lend themselves to accounting right now. Territories are forming their own regional stocks not only with money from federal and local budgets but also by barter. All kinds of things are exchanged for grain. So it is a simple matter that when, for example, the Roskhleboprodukt joint-stock company offers 370,000 rubles [R] for a tonne of barley, Volgograd Oblast representatives can afford to purchase it at R400,000 a tonne (R300,000 of which goes to collective and state farms and the rest to local administrations) and give the surplus in gasoline products.

Thus, by simple arithmetic the following picture can be compiled: Bread will not triple or quadruple in price by the end of the year, but it will almost exactly double in price.

International Affairs

Prime Minister Marchuk Continues U.S. Visit

Military Cooperation Talks With Perry

LD2809181895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, D.C., September 28 (Interfax - Ukraine) - Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk has discussed at a meeting with US Defence Secretary William Perry prospects of extending Ukraine's military cooperation with the NATO and the USA, as well as the problem of the Yugoslavian conflict's settlement.

According to a special correspondent of Interfax - Ukraine, Perry said at the meeting which was held in Washington Wednesday [27 September] that the American military had got "a good impression" from the joint exercises of Ukraine and NATO which had been conducted of late.

According to Marchuk, Ukraine and NATO have planned to hold about 50 joint exercises in 1996. He described the cooperation between the Defence Departments of Ukraine and the USA as "a contacts sample".

In his turn, Perry said the USA hoped for a direct participation of Ukraine and Russia in the peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia under the NATO command taking into account the successfully conducted exercises within the Partnership for Peace program.

"If we achieve a political settlement, I hope we will be able to secure it by military efforts", Parry said.

Marchuk expressed hope that "the diplomatic break through at the talks on the Yugoslavian conflict will give its effect and the conflict would be settled by peaceful means".

Marchuk Comments on U.S. Stance on BSF

LD2809182795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1611 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, D.C., September 28 (Interfax - Ukraine) — For the time being, Ukraine does not put an issue of the need for "the United States officially working out its stand in the issue of splitting the BSF [Black Sea Fleet]", Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk said.

"However, if the situation at the negotiations on the BSF keeps further developing in such a way, it is not excluded that our stand may change", the premier said in an interview with Ukrainian newsmen in Washington September 27. He also emphasized that American specialists "gave consultations to Ukrainian experts as to the world practices of deploying military bases in the territory of other states". In principle, Marchuk said, "we do not exclude" our turning to the United States in that issue (the Black Sea Fleet — IF-U).

Talks With Gore on Economy, Chernobyl

LD2809182995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, Sept 28 (Interfax) - Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said that during his meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore the U.S. side reiterated that it attaches "much importance" to relations with Ukraine.

"We discussed concrete agreements during the meeting," Marchuk told Ukrainian journalists. He stressed that the U.S. is especially interested in the resolution of all issues relating to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

"Ukraine confirmed its intentions to close down the plant," he said. According to Marchuk, Al Gore has demonstrated understanding that Ukraine cannot resolve all these issues alone.

The Ukrainian prime minister also said that the sides decided to accelerate contacts and broaden ties between the economics, justice, health and other ministries of the two countries.

The U.S. administration intends to use its influence on international financial institutions in order to further investment into the Ukrainian economy, said Marchuk.

"While discussing various international issues, we never mentioned the 'third side'," he said. Marchuk would not specify which side he meant.

Ukraine is interested in developing contacts both in the West and in the East, said the prime minister.

Marchuk will also meet today with Acting U.S. Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, Representatives and World Bank leaders.

Ukraine is expected to get credits to finance hydroelectric power and seed growing projects.

Marchuk Meets With IMF Directors

LD2809210795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk met with the managers of the International

Monetary Fund's East European department in Washington Wednesday [27 September].

He told journalists that nothing unexpected was said at the meeting. Marchuk said that the slow pace of privatization was one of the subjects discussed. He emphasized that the government had taken up this issue several times last summer and that more businesses had been privatized during the last 2 or 3 months than in the 1st half of the year.

According to Marchuk, Ukraine has paid its $25 million for Turkmenistan's gas while problems existed only with current payments to Russia.

Marchuk dismissed the accusations that Ukraine's economic policy is dictated by the IMF managers. He said that it is dictated by common sense. IF Note: Official sources say that Marchuk and IMF managers discussed the possibility of lifting grain export quotas and a reform of the currency regulation system.

Addresses U.S. Chamber of Commerce

WS2909092295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0101 GMT 29 Sep 95

[By Yaro Bihun, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Sep 28 — Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk told American government and business leaders that U.S.-Ukrainian economic relations are growing, but not fast enough, and that Washington is partly to blame.

Addressing the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on the second day of his three-day visit here, Marchuk said that his government considers the US$ 500 million in US-Ukrainian bilateral trade "inadequate." And even though Ukrainian exports to the US grew by one-third over the past six months, he said, 85 percent of those exports were in ferrous metals, inorganic chemicals and clothing. He said this should be broadened to reflect more fully Ukraine's manufacturing and technical potential.

He pointed out that Ukraine and the United States have signed more than 40 economic agreements that can serve as a sound foundation for the development of mutually beneficial economic relations.

Unfortunately, he said, the United States has yet to ratify two fundamental agreements — one dealing with investment promotion and protection and the other dealing with the problem of double taxation. He noted that these two agreements were ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament.

The prime minister also called on Washington to extend Ukraine's participation in the US General System of Preferences, which expired July 31, and to provide more technical and consultative assistance in its effort to join the World Trade Organization.

"We discussed these issues yesterday during our meetings with Vice President (Al) Gore and (Senate Majority Leader) Bob Dole. And the American officials said they expected that they will be solved," Marchuk said.

On his first day in Washington, Marchuk also met with the U.S. secretaries of commerce and defense.

He noted that more than 500 foreign investors are already doing business in Ukraine. He singled out Westinghouse, which invested US$ 14 million into a joint venture with Khartron, Philip Morris, Kraft, Motorola and Alliance Tech Systems.

He described at length the progress made in reforming Ukraine's economy and investment climate during the administration of President Leonid Kuchma:

* the monthly inflation rate has been reduced from 7.2 percent to 4.8 percent in August, and is expected to drop below 2 percent by the end of 1995; * the budget deficit is currently at 7.6 percent and should drop to 6 percent by next year;

* the dollar-karbovanets exchange rate has remained level over the past eight months;

* and bank-loan interest rates have dropped from 240 percent to 65 percent, which for the first time has allowed banks to consider giving long-term loans.

Marchuk said that Ukraine's investment climate is also helped by the fact that, unlike some of its neighbors, Ukraine does not suffer from internal conflict; it has resolved its governmental and constitutional problems peacefully; and it has in place numerous laws on foreign investment, guaranteeing, among other things, the right to repatriate profits.

Summing up his first day of talks, Marchuk said:

"Our discussions here thus far have demonstrated that there is a great potential for expanding our bilateral relationship and cooperation in economic development and trade, science and technology and even in the areas of defense as well as global and regional security."

Kostenko Briefs on Marchuk's U.S. Visit

WS2909093695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0101 GMT 29 Sep 95

[By Oksana Hasiuk, INTELNEWS Staff Writer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sep 28 — The United States and Canada are the only Group of Seven Industrialized Nations members to favor a replacement power plant near the site of the Chernobyl nuclear plant, Enviromental Minister Yuriy Kostenko said Thursday.

Kostenko held a briefing on the progress of Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk's U.S. visit. Marchuk discussed the Chernobyl plant's closure, slated for the year 2000, with U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

Marchuk said Wednesday that Gore told him the United States understands that Ukraine will not be able to tackle the Chornobyl closure on its own.

According to Kostenko, the United States, despite its significant international influence, has only one vote in the G-7.

Most G-7 members prefer to do away with Chernobyl after 2000 completely rather than replace it with a natural gas-fired steam plant in Slavutych. To compensate for the energy loss of Chernobyl, the G-7 proposed an overhaul of Ukraine's existing conventional power plants and additional reactors in some nuclear plants.

"But the most favorable option for Ukraine is construction of a [gas-fired] steam power plant because it will allow preservation of the employment base and social structure (of Slavutych) after Chernobyl's closure," Kostenko said.

According to Kostenko, European countries do not trust Ukraine.

"During the G-7 delegation's visit to Ukraine this week, one French top official told me that France does not trust Ukraine in Chernobyl closure issues," Kostenko said.

The United States has shown its interest in Chernobyl in the past, as well, Kostenko said. The United States has allocated US$ 3 million to establish an international scientific research center dedicated to liquidate the Chernobyl disaster aftereffects, Kostenko said. The funds for the center will be channeled through the U.S. Department of Energy. Kostenko said that Marchuk will have meetings with U.S. Energy Department officials during his current visit.

According to Marchuk, the U.S. government will use its influence with international financial organizations in rendering investment assistance to Ukraine.

President Leonid Kuchma expects to get a substantial G-7 grant for Chernobyl's closure during the next G-7 meeting in Moscow, scheduled for April 1996, Kostenko said.

Minister Says U.S. Supports Plan To Close Chernobyl

LD2809214995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2013 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Sept 28 (Interfax - Ukraine) - The United States has not turned down the Ukrainian plan of shutting down the Chernobyl nuclear power station, Minister for Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety Yuriy Kostenko told a Thursday news conference in Kiev.

He said that at the Vienna session of the IAEA earlier this month the U.S. supported the Ukrainian plan of building a steam-gas station as compensation for the closure of Chernobyl power units.

The minister called the G7 plan the worst for Ukraine.

The G7 and Ukraine discussed their approaches to Chernobyl at recent talks in Kiev. The Western side rejected the Ukrainian proposal of building a thermal station in Slavutich and suggested a comprehensive program of resolving Ukrainian energy problems: the opening of new power units at Ukrainian nuclear and hydro power stations as well as the reconstruction of already-operating thermal stations.

The minister said the U.S. approach to the matter is shared by Canada. He accounted the differing attitude of European countries to their partial mistrust of Ukraine.

Kostenko reported that the second power unit in Chernobyl will no longer be used. Repairs are nearing completion at the first unit allowing it to operate for one more year. The minister said that if agreement with the West is reached, the unit will be gradually shut down in 1997.

He drew special attention to the unsafe encasement of the fourth unit, taken off-line after the 1986 accident. According to Kostenko, nobody can now guarantee that it will last out for 30 years as promised during its construction. He did not rule out the possibility of another chain reaction. The minister said there are about 200 tonnes of nuclear fuel under the encasement.

"Everything will to depend on the sum the West is going to allocate for unprofitable projects," he said adding that the decision on Chernobyl will be made by the G7 summit next April.

Udovenko Attends 50th Session of UN General Assembly

Proposes UN Mediator's Council

LD2809211595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Sept 28 (Interfax) — Ukrainian Foreign Minister Gennadiy Udovenko has proposed the creation of a permanent Council of International Mediators under the auspices of the U.N. secretary general. The council, to include renowned political figures, would act to avoid or settle conflicts.

Udovenko put forward the initiative at the 50th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry press office told Interfax - Ukraine Thursday.

Udovenko also said that while trying to settle the Balkan crisis the U.N. security Council must lift economic sanctions against rump Yugoslavia.

He said the example of Yugoslavia demonstrates the slow rethinking of the U.N. role in the modern world. Most problems the U.N. faced in former Yugoslavia were caused by a "failure to abide by the main principles of peacekeeping, in particular that of impartiality," said Udovenko.

The foreign minister reiterated that Ukraine is prepared to develop more active cooperation in resolving the Balkan crisis and to take part in the creation of U.N. reserve forces.

Addresses UN on Bosnia, 'Preventive Diplomacy'

LD2809212595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1730 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 28 Sep — Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko today addressed the 50th jubilee session of the UN General Assembly, the foreign ministry press center told UNIAN.

Speaking in a political discussion, the minister dwelled in detail on the situation in former Yugoslavia. He confirmed Ukraine's offer to host a meeting between the leaders of the warring sides, with the participation of interested countries and international organizations. Udovenko added that Ukraine was ready to provide active support for the UN effort to resolve the conflict and contribute to the creation of the UN reserve force.

Stressing the importance of preventive diplomacy as a part of UN activities, the foreign minister put forward a proposal to set up a permanent council of international mediators under the UN secretary general, made up of prominent political figures with a mission to assist conflict prevention and settlement.

Speaking on security and disarmament issues, Udovenko said Ukraine attached particular significance to successful negotiations on a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing.

The foreign minister addressed problems encountered by countries with transitional economies and briefed delegates on the development of reforms in Ukraine. Highlighting the problem of deported peoples, Udovenko noted that their repatriation required concerted efforts on a wider international scale.

Udovenko, Canada's Ouellet Hold New York Talks

LD2809155095 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 1400 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign ministers of Ukraine and Canada, Hennadiy Udovenko and Andre Ouellet, have had a working meeting in New York. The two ministers, in charge of their countries' delegations at the anniversary session of the UN General Assembly, discussed the state of and prospects for the development of bilateral relations, exchanged views on the activity and role of the United Nations, and reaffirmed their mutual desire to promote broader cooperation between Ukraine and Canada on the basis of a special partnership.

Hennadiy Udovenko and Andre Ouellet exchanged ratification certificates bringing into effect the friendship and cooperation treaty between Ukraine and Canada, signed by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma during his state visit to Canada in October last year.

Kiev Begins Withdrawal of Troops in North Croatia

LD2809205195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Sept 28 (Interfax - Ukraine) — In accordance with a U.N. decision Ukraine has begun withdrawing its peacekeepers from the North sector of Croatia.

Sources in the Ukrainian Embassy in Croatia told Interfax - Ukraine Thursday that 216 out of 550 peacekeepers from the 60th Ukrainian battalion and 31 out of 110 members of the Ukrainian Air Force helicopter-borne unit were sent home on September 27. The unit was deployed in Croatia last June.

The remaining peacekeepers of the 60th battalion are preparing military equipment for a pullout set for December.

Under a preliminary pullout schedule, the last Ukrainian peacekeepers will leave Croatia in early December, said the sources.

In the summer of 1992 Ukraine upheld the appeal by U.N. secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and sent its peacekeepers to former Yugoslavia.

The Ukrainian 240th battalion is still deployed near the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and may stay there until late November until the term of the U.N. mandate expires, said the sources.

Ukrainian peacekeepers in former Yugoslavia until now totalled about 1,200.

Yeltsin's Edict on Links With CIS Assessed

WS2809154095 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 26 Sep 95 p 4

[Interview with Borys Illich Oliynyk, chairman of the Ukraine Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and Relations With the CIS, by Elena Myloserdova; place and date not given: "One Has To Be Cautious With Yeltsin" — first three paragraphs are KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] From time to time, official Moscow "issues" state documents that involuntarily cause some bewilderment. Given our independence and sovereignty, some decisions by the Russian Duma — for example, on the Black Sea Fleet or the status of Sevastopol — are obviously not in step with the fact that Ukraine is an independent state and stopped being a soviet republic some time ago. In this aspect, Russian President Yeltsin's edict "Russia's Strategic Course on the Development of Relations With CIS States" also was not an exception.

Last week, Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko declared that Ukraine will soon become a full-fledged member of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly [MPA], which he also heads. If a hasty and unexpected visit by Belarusian President Mr. Lukashenka (read: Yeltsin's emissary) is added to these developments, an impression of a mass attack on Ukraine is created.

But let us not make guesses. Let us give a word to Borys Oliynyk, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and Relations With the CIS.

[Myloserdova] Borys Illich, what is your opinion about Yeltsin's recent edict?

[Oliynyk] My opinion about the personality of Boris Nikolayevich has been known since 1990s and, contrary to our democrats, I warned: He is a changeable and impulsive man. It is necessary to deal with him with particular cautioun and with witnesses present, because it is possible that Yeltsin — given all his objective qualities — does not at all know what he will do tomorrow. Precisely this has been confirmed, although such an edict did not surprise me. When I spoke about this before, our democrats attacked me: How could I oppose "the father of universal democracy?" But the events that followed confirmed that I, to my great regret, was right. This also concerns the full-scale agreement which we still cannot sign, the Black Sea Fleet problem, and the bombardment of the legally elected parliament. The left forces, by the way, have assessed this event, while democrats have not done this. We only heard that all leaders of contiguous countries have justified Yeltsin's activities. When such actions are forgiven, they lead to Chechnya. All this has been done by "the father of democracy." Hence, this edict did not surprise me.

As regards its essence, each state must advocate its national strategic interests, but must not forget that its neighbors also have their national strategic interests. At least our foreign policy is based on the American model — live and make it possible for other people to live. Therefore, one must not shape his behavior as if he were alone, but one must consider the fact that similar people continue to live near him.

[Myloserdova] Could you provide more detail?

[Oliynyk] Let us take the first postulate. I am citing: "Russia's primary vital interests in the spheres of the economy, defense, security, and protection of the Russians' rights, on the provision of which national security is based, are concentrated on the territory of the CIS states." This is a tenet from the American strategy: The U. S. vital interests are those which the United States itself has the right to specify. [Are these vital interests] in Zanzibar? Yes. In Somali? Yes. In Yugoslavia? Yes. Even bombing can be applied there. Therefore, there is no difference between Yeltsin's statement and the American concept.

[Myloserdova] What do you think about the tenet "... strengthening Russia as a leading force in the formation of a new system of interstate political and economic relations on the territory of what used to be the Soviet Union?"

[Oliynyk] This is precisely the U.S. imperial model with its "vital interests." They also have the phrase "specific interests." But each state has its own "specific interests" and one should remember them. I do want to say: Whoever says it and whatever it is that is said, I have my own position and I do not change it. The Moscow team must not be confused with Russia and the Russians. Teams come and go. The Russian people suffer; they like the Ukrainian people have great problems. No one has the right to separate [the peoples] and claim loudly that someone is enemy no. 1 or no. 2.

If the Moscow team, however, thinks that it is possible to specify Russia's vital interests wherever it wants, we, as a sovereign state, must do everything to ensure our national security.

[Myloserdova] At the same time, good relations with Russia as the no. 1 partner should be preserved.

[Oliynyk] Undoubtedly. Therefore, I say that one should not mix up the [governmental] team with the country. One way or another, we are neighbors and we will have good relations with the Russian people, because we must not be divided by barbed wire.

[Myloserdova] As regards the country, I agree with you. But political issues have to be resolved with the team.

[Oliynyk] Yes, and therefore one should not be afraid. Our [politicians] are afraid when the point is relations with the CIS, the MPA, and so on. They are afraid that we will get into a force field. Who, however, is pushed into a force field? It is up to us to not enter it. At least economic relations should be developed if it is profitable for the entire state. We must guarantee our independence politically.

[Myloserdova] Let us return to the MPA. Why is Mr. Shumeykos so confident when he is drawing conclusions?

[Oliynyk] He, as a rule, confuses reality with desires. Since the issue on joining the MPA has been raised, it is under consideration in our commission, and its members differ on whether Ukraine should join the MPA. At the demand of the members of the commission, a package of documents on the MPA — which we do not have — should be submitted to us. Then the Foreign Ministry should submit its expert assessment to us. Our commission will draw its conclusions (will vote for or against the Foreign Ministry's option). Deputies with the right to a legislative initiative, however, have the right to submit this issue for consideration at the session of the Supreme Council.

[Myloserdova] Are you personally a supporter or opponent of joining the MPA?

[Oliynyk] I support the friendship of all the peoples of the world and I favor the concept that we are living together according to God's will. Our relations should be built in such a way that our grandchildren will be able to peacefully look into each other's eyes. But we should determine our specific rights. Based on our will, we could delegate only part of our power [to the MPA], but not as the eight CIS countries have done. Every president has the right to specify his status [as published]. If we do not express a will to join the MPA nothing could be made of it.... Economic relations, however, must exist, because capillaries and vessels cannot be cut; one will be unable to discuss some sovereignty and independence later because he will be bleeding to death.

As regards the political aspect, if we consider Yeltsin's last edict, of course, the imperial mood is being felt there. If one of the states, however, claims "specific interests," I do not intend to join the field of these specific interests.

Analyst on Russia's 'Big Brother' Aspirations

AU2709125095 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Sep 95 p 5

[Commentary by Natalya Filipchuk: "Does Yeltsin Have a Plan? And Some Plan at That!" — first paragraph published in a box]

[FBIS Translated Text] If one is to be guided by analysts' forecasts to the effect that the idea of Russia's reassuming the "big brother" role in the "CIS family" will gain popularity during the election campaign, it may be inferred that the election campaign has started. President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin put the first brick under his chair (so that it should not shake too much) by issuing an edict that determined Russia's strategic course toward the development of relations with CIS countries.

The text of the document was published in full by quite a number of the mass media. There has still been no official reaction from Kiev, although Borys Tarasyuk, first deputy foreign minister, pointed out that "It is difficult to imagine integration processes that are regulated by edicts of the head of just a single member state."

"While developing relations with CIS partners, it is necessary to be firmly guided by the principle of doing no harm to Russian interests," reads the document. Before one grasps the full content of the text, one sees the continuation: One of Russia's main political tasks is "consolidation of Russia as a leading force in the formation of a new system of interstate political and economic relations on the post-Union territory, acceleration of integration processes within the CIS..., and gradual expansion of the Customs Union that will encompass states affiliated with Russia by a profoundly integrated economy and strategic political partnership."

Incidentally, regarding the latter, the "profound economic integration and strategic partnership" apply, first and foremost, to Ukraine. We recently signed corresponding documents in Sochi. At the same time, our sober-minded attitude toward the Customs Union does not seem to bother our northern neighbor, as from now on, Russia intends to seek recognition on the part of the CIS countries "of the fact that the CIS is, primarily, a zone of Russian interests."

To put it another way, the cited statements of the edict indicate that Russia is sick and tired of complying with the opinions of its partners, and has decided to exercise the rights of the "big brother" and to take the initiative and, concurrently, forbid the other CIS members to pursue their independent external policies. This is explained as follows: "To demand that the CIS states fulfill their commitments and refrain from participation in unions or blocs aimed against any of the states." In the course of time, the Council of Europe may also be listed among such blocs. Just recall that recently, after the question of Ukraine's admission to the Council of Europe was raised at a Parliamentary Assembly session, some Russian politicians stated that Russia wanted nothing to do with that organization, because its attitude toward Ukraine was more "amiable." How should then Ukraine treat the Council of Europe and also NATO, which has recently been a matter of annoyance for the Russian leadership, and so on?

With regard to the pursuing of an independent external policy, which is one of the conditions for a state's existence, it also appears that precisely this edict is directed against the CIS states. If one adheres to the clause on the "nonparticipation in blocs and unions," then all CIS countries, with the exception of Russia (or the other way around), must immediately withdraw from the Commonwealth.

Therefore, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry and also President Kuchma have something to ponder. So far, our state has refrained from an official reaction. However, something has already become obvious: An election campaign has started in Russia, and Yeltsin dreams of getting additional votes by taking advantage of the moods prevailing among the citizens — nostalgia for the great and indivisible [Russia]. For Ukraine, the role of small-fry has been prepared.

National Affairs

Kuchma Addresses Conference on City Management

LD2809140295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1238 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — City mayors should be given broader powers to enable them to better handle the ample economic and scientific potential concentrated in cities, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said today in an opening address to a conference on city management . The conference, which was organised by the presidential administration, is attended by mayors of all Ukrainian cities and self-rule experts from Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, the U.S. and other countries.

Kuchma said there had been separation of powers of executive and legislative branches after the president and the parliament signed a constitutional agreement.

A distinctive vertical hierarchy of the executive is emerging, Kuchma said.

He stressed the need for revisiting the issues in local budget formation and the setting up of pinpoint economic zones.

"We should provide real powers to local authorities. The course of reforms formulated on the top is doomed without grassroot support," Kuchma said.

He informed the conference that he was drafting a decree on state support to local self-rule legislation.

The conference stated that Ukraine is one of most urbanised European countries.

Its cities have a total population of 35 million, with millions- sized populations in five cities.

The conference agreed that these cities are likely to be catalysts of Ukraine's reforms.

Kuchma Reshuffles National Security Council

AU2809214995 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The National Security Council Has Been Renewed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the Ukrainian Presidential Edict "On Changes in the Composition of the National Security Council and Presidential National Security Council," a new composition of these structures has been approved.

The National Security Council is now headed by the president himself. It also comprises Volodymyr Horbulin, Viktor Bannykh, Petro Hermanchuk, Vasyl Hureyev, Vasyl Durdynets, Yuriy Kostenko, Yuriy Kravchenko, Yevhen Marchuk, Serhiy Osyka, Volodymyr Radchenko, Dmytro Tabachnyk, Valeriy Shmarov, and Hennadiy Udovenko.

The Presidium of the National Security Council subordinated to the Ukrainian president is made up of Leonid Kuchma (chairman of the council), Volodymyr Horbulin (secretary), Vasyl Durdynets, Yevhen Marchuk, Volodymyr Radchenko, and Valeriy Shmarov.

Kuchma Holds Discussion With Communist Deputies

LD2809220695 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met leaders of the parliamentary faction "Communists of Ukraine for Social Justice and Democracy." According to the presidential press service, they discussed a number of issues concerning the socioeconomic and political situation in the country. The meeting was fruitful and constructive, despite essential differences of opinion, the press service said. The president and Communist deputies expressed a common desire to prevent dangerous confrontation in society at a time of complex social and economic developments and continue the dialogue between political forces of different orientation.

Communists Want New Constitution Put to Referendum

WS2909095795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0101 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sep 27 — Parliament's Communist faction on Wednesday called for the basic provisions of a new Ukrainian constitution to be put squarely before the people in a nationwide referendum.

Communists said issues such as social security, property ownership, state symbols, state power structures, Russian-language status, and a union of independent states should be included in a possible referendum.

"After the people of Ukraine voice their will, the Parliament will be able to adopt a new constitution," the party said.

The party said a referendum is the only true democratic way to establish a base for a new constitution.

Two weeks ago, the President Leonid Kuchma announced that Ukraine was ready to create a constitutional draft and submit it as a referendum by the end of the year.

Left-Wing Forces Prepare for 'Autumn Onslaught'

WS2809114795 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 23 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Maryana Oliynyk: "The 'Leftist March' Has Begun"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Our political opponents and a number of newspapers informed about the expected 'autumn onslaught' of left-wing forces a long time ago. There is thus nothing we can do but draft an action plan and dub it — thank everybody for the hint! — 'The Autumn Onslaught,'" **Vasyl Arestov**, member of the Socialist Party Political Council and coordinator of the bloc of the Kiev region left-wing forces that was set up on 11 September, told journalists. The leaders of the reestablished bloc recently gathered media people to tell them about both their achievements and plans. According to Vasyl Arestov, the achievements include the picketing of the U.S. and Latvian embassies and the Supreme Council. This refers to the recent picketing of the parliament by veterans, organized by left-wing forces. (And they did not attempt "to attach themselves" to it as the press reported, offended Vasyl Arestov noted.) The government's "response" to it, according to the participants in the news conference, was yet another "mockery" — an increase in bread prices in the capital.

What will be next? There will be celebration of the October Revolution anniversary (a solemn meeting, rally, etc.) and the 90th anniversary of the 1905 Revolution. The left-wing forces are going to commemorate this date — about which everybody deliberately has forgotten, because "it could induce undesirable associations," as Vasyl Arestov emphasized— by conducting a march of memory. They will walk down those Kiev streets on which the defiant engineering battalion under the command of Borys Zhadanovskyy marched in 1905. This will take place in December, but "we will not reveal on which day, so that our opponents are unable to obstruct us."

"One of the newspapers claims that we are picketing the Supreme Council, and are afraid of picketing the Presidential Administration," Vasyl Arestov continued. "We are not afraid! We are going to picket the presidential residence. It is time for the president to disengage Ukraine from his presence. In general, we do not need the office of president." "Look at me," comrade Arestov shouted, "I am a typical representative of half-famished, poorly dressed residents of the capital. We have nothing to lose, and nobody to be afraid of." (One must agree with Vasyl Mykolayovych: Looking at him, one can believe that he says the truth. I doubt, however, that the definition "half-famished, poorly dressed Kievans" can be applied to the high-ranking leaders of the Socialist and Communist Parties).

The leaders of the bloc of Kiev region left-wing forces claim that people are even now ready to follow them to express their protest, but they are afraid of being beaten with truncheons. "In two months, however, they will not be afraid of truncheons either."

The left-wing forces are also going to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections, having fielded in almost all Kiev constituencies one candidate of their bloc — the Communist Party of Ukraine, the Socialist

Party of Ukraine, the Union of Communists, and the Union of Workers. The Socialists and Communists are pledging to exert all efforts so that the elections are held in Kiev, although they do not have much hope for that.

Also addressed at the news conference was the establishment of a nationwide bloc of left-wing forces.

The left-wingers do not conceal their goals: They want either to change current policy and overthrow the "antipopular regime" (under which "8 percent of the people do not know what to do with their money, while the rest are doomed to slow death") or replace Ukraine's leadership. Of course, one can accuse them of demagoguery, populism, etc. as much as one wants. I think, however, that there are is every ground to be afraid that the next "left march" will be fraught with serious social upheaval. After all, the left-wingers have significant trump cards in their hands: The trouble is that for an old woman, who counts her worn-out karbovantsi at a bakery with tears in her eyes, and whose pension is "eaten away" by rent, their reasoning is much more convincing than lectures by leading domestic economists about stabilizing the situation, reducing inflation, etc. It seems that the "comrades" know which card they should play. Gentlemen, with what card will we beat it?

Authorities Continue Arresting National Assembly Activists

LD2809111595 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Supporters of the Ukrainian National Assembly continue to be arrested. More than 150 people had been arrested by 2000 yesterday. Apartments belonging to activists are being searched. One of the leaders of the UNA-UNSD, Dmytro Korchynskyy, who was recently detained by law enforcement agents, declared a hunger strike.

To protest the political arbitrariness, a new group of hunger-strikers who arrived in the Ukrainian capital, joined the hunger-strikers today. Similar actions will be held in other Ukrainian regions.

Environment Minister Confirms Plans for Chernobyl Closure

LD2809203395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1554 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Yelena Alikhanyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, September 28 (Itar-Tass) - Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's statement about the intention to shut down the Chernobyl atomic power plant by 2000 completely corresponds to the country's real situation, Ukrainian Environment Minister Yuriy Kostenko told a news conference on Thursday.

Kuchma had linked the closure of the pant to the provision to Ukraine of comprehensive and real assistance in the field of power production and nuclear safety as a whole.

The issue of shutting down the Chernobyl plant was on the agenda of the 39th session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Kostenko said.

The international community pays special attention to this issue, he said. In the meantime, the talks on G-7 proposals of possible ways of closure are far from completion.

Economic Issues

Prime Minister on Delay of Monetary Reform

WS2809114095 Kiev ZERKALO NEDELI in Russian 23-29 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Yevhen Kyrylovych Marchuk, by Yuliya Mostovaya; place and date not given: "There Will Be No Monetary Reform This Year, Nor Will There Be Monetary Emission" — first three and last four paragraphs are ZERKALO NEDELI introduction and conclusion, respectively]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Thursday is a fatal day for Ukrainian monetary reform. By recording the dates for introducing the hryvnya — it always fell on precisely this day of the week — the people of our country have already lost count of them. On Thursday, not specifying exactly which one, Ukrainian National Bank Chairman Viktor Yushchenko pledged to implement monetary reform; on Thursday, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma stated its inevitable arrival; while last Thursday [21 September], Leonid Kuchma abandoned this idea, explaining this by the fact that the time for introducing reform has been lost and another date should be scheduled.*

The issue whether monetary reform will be introduced in Ukraine before the end of 1995 was discussed by experts — likely very heatedly — on Thursday, 21 September. Previous meetings of the Commission for Monetary Reform showed that those who will not be accountable for the successful introduction of a new monetary unit supported it. Responsible officials opposed reform. In addition to external and purely technical reasons, adversaries of reform stated the need to resolve a variety of domestic problems. Among them, priority was given to such issues as paying full wages in the industrial and budget-financed sectors and paying various benefits, pensions, and stipends. In the opinion of the adversaries of reform, at the beginning it would not be at all out of *place to improve the situation with mutual accounts between economic entities, the fulfillment of external obligations, and, the most important thing, with payments for natural gas deliveries.*

Some experts think the fact that inflation has not yet been fully curbed is an important reason for shifting the date of reform. According to some experts, if the hryvnya is introduced in October 1995 it will be devalued by 80-90 percent by the summer of 1996. Does it make any sense to put a new monetary unit at the mercy of inflation — whose image can be described as an "economic old woman on crutches" — if inflation over time eats up the value of the karbovanets? We did not manage to ask Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk all these question during the exclusive interview that he granted to ZERKALO NEDELI. Nevertheless, in our opinion, he has managed to clarify the most important issues.

[Mostovaya] When Leonid Kuchma was on an official visit in Kazakstan, he said that perhaps the date for monetary reform would be changed. In his words, the final decision would have to be adopted at the meeting of the State Commission for Monetary Reform that you head. Yevhen Kyrylovych, can we learn about the results of this meeting?

[Marchuk) Meetings of the State Commission for Monetary Reform are always held behind closed doors. Therefore, I cannot tell you anything about it. The discreet nature of the commission's activities is justified by the desire to avoid making a fuss or to provoke any speculations around individual statements. In general, there is nothing secretive about the issue discussed. During the meeting, several views were expressed and, all in all, it was natural. Some of them were mutually exclusive. Making discussions — not their results — public could affect the situation on our currency and commodity markets negatively.

But I can tell you about the most important thing: Indeed, monetary reform was discussed. Before the meeting of the commission, we discussed this issue with the president for a long time.

The point is that there are a number of things that must be considered when reform is launched. The first thing, and the most important one, is that Ukraine's 1996 budget has not yet been adopted. This is extremely significant. Of course, monetary reform could be implemented on a purely hypothetical basis and then the entire budget could be recalculated in new monetary units. This is, however, a theory, but it is impossible to implement, because various monetary amounts circulate, different monetary ratios exist, and so on. Hence, it is inexpedient to launch monetary reform since the Ukranian Supreme Council has not adopted a law on the 1996 state budget. The second quite important circumstance is that the hryvnya stabilization fund has not been established. The National Bank of Ukraine [NBU] has accumulated specific reserves to set up such a fund, but reserves are very small so far. The issue regarding the support of international financial institutions for establishing a Ukrainian stabilization fund could be submitted to the council of directors for consideration only in October. In addition, it is possible that a relevant decision would not be adopted. There is a variety of factors which are studied and considered by these organizations.... The program of my visit to the United States (the visit will be held between 26 September and 30 September) envisages meetings with the IMF and the World Bank leadership. I believe that these problems will certainly be discussed there. Now, however, it is necessary to understand that it is very risky to launch monetary reform if the reserve fund has not been set up.

Developing the presidential thesis about the emergence of signs of economic stability in Ukraine, I would like to say that indeed the situation in the economy is overseen, under control, and that inflation is within the scheduled framework. These two parameters are extremely valuable for the economy, because the first and the second bolster the increase in faith in the national currency. This triggers the keeping of deposits for longer periods of time and they in turn make it possible for the banks to grant long-term loans that are so critical for industrialists. On the other hand, the inflation rate, which is currently slowing, influences the NBU discount credit rate positively.

All these ingredients of stabilization exist, but they have been achieved through hard effort. At the same time, we are criticized — and this criticism is mostly correct — because the policy of macroeconomic, financial stabilization has not led to positive results at the industrial level. This is very true, and it is impossible to regard such a state of things as positive.

The experience of such countries as Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and the Baltic states shows that achievements of the stabilization process at the macroeconomic level begin to produce results in industry only in about 18 months to two years. This is absolutely normal and natural. Not only our and our neighbors' estimates, but also data from international financial bodies confirm it. The difference is only in a time frame, but the error does not exceed six months. In some countries, the increase in GDP and the industrial recovery began in a year and a half, in others it began in two years after the stabilization of the financial macroeconomic environment was begun. We, however, have begun to feel the positive macroeconomic process only since January this year. Despite considerable success, we will still have to seriously fight inflation, but not at the expense of aggravating the situation. Our past mistakes have taught us lessons.

By the way, all states that have covered a path similar to ours are characterized by the following, which are normal: If inflation exceeds 30 percent annually, GDP as a rule does not rise, but the drop in production is halted, given such an inflation rate. We cannot boast of such success so far, because our inflation amounts to 4.5 percent-4.8 percent monthly, while it must not exceed 1.2 percent-1.8 percent. There is, however, a stable tendency toward lowering inflation in Ukraine. Active investment activities of both national and foreign capital will be launched, if annual inflation stands between 20 percent and 25 percent. Only then will the increase in GDP and the industrial recovery — in fact they are what we are working for — take place.

Things being as they are, the last issue is as follows: It is absolutely normal for all countries that have gone through a transitional period from one type of economy to another to experience the following: As soon as the states undertook an unplanned, additional emission, the real income of the people immediately dropped by precisely the same amount. Precisely the same reduction was also observed in enterprises' solvency, because it was triggered by the flight of working capital. We are sometimes reproached that our fight against inflation is a chimera and we should give it up and deal with only on the microeconomic level. I, however, must tell you that it has been repeatedly proved that the subsidizing of sectors is a ruinous thing. It is even bad to grant subsidies to a specific enterprise, a specific chief of an enterprise, a specific body with a concrete program. It is much better to create a favorable climate and aacceptable rules of the game.

[Mostovaya] Does this imply that the Cabinet of Ministers will not insist on an unplanned emission before the end of the year?

[Marchuk) Yes. This absolutely and precisely means that there will be no unplanned emission before the end of the year. There are the reins to manage the budget deficit, or to issue credits to it, by means of NBU loans. These loans, however, have already been exhausted and there will be no credit emissions this year. No matter how difficult it would be for us to find domestic reserves to resolve urgent issues, such as preparations for the winter and other issues, we will do this. Anyway, I will categorically and to the best of ability oppose an emission. This is a serious principle, which, if violated, implies the uselessness of further work on our part. Because any emission will break up the above-mentioned positive process, which we — thank God — have been able to maintain.

I stress once again that there is a correlation between macroeconomic processes and the recovery of production. There are no reasons to regard this as a stable development yet, but in Ukraine specific enterprises and sectors have already emerged in which the drop in production output has been halted. Their number is small, but in January they did not exist at all. They are the first signs [of improvement].

[Mostovaya] Yevhen Kyrylovych, in your opinion, how would the currency market respond to a change in the time for monetary reform? Are there any forecasts?

[Marchuk) I believe that serious analysts will respond positively, in a normal way, because precisely by doing this we stress that we will not drop to the bottom of the monetary reform whirlpool. Monetary reform is only part of a big economic reform, it is powerful leverage. On the other hand, we are striving to make the people have greater faith in the new currency to avoid anxious expectations and nerves tormented just for nothing. I think that the current situation could be an additional stabilizing factor.

[Mostovaya] In other words, we should not worry until next summer, correct?

[Marchuk) I cannot tell you now whether it will be the summer: Reform could be launched somewhat later or earlier. I can be sure about only one thing: We will study, oversee, and manage the situation during the next months. It is clear that it is not worth implementing monetary reform this year.

Post scriptum. Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Kyrylovych Marchuk supported the further pursuing of the course aimed at the financial stabilization of the Ukrainian economy. When he met with Klaus-Peter Mueller, cochairman of the Ukrainian-German working group for financial issues, in Kiev on 22 September, he said that the "support for financial stabilization will be continued and carried out in a tougher way."

According to the prime minister, the meeting of researchers should not be mixed up with the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers. The recent speeches made by the president and the prime minister "in no way mean a change in the course of reform." Yevhen Kyrylovych Marchuk emphasized that both speeches focused on the "necessity to strengthen specific aspects in the performance of executive power" that "are mainly connected with production problems." "But it does not mean that the problems of the monetary system and financial stabilization have become less important," he stressed.

Yevhen Marchuk particularly emphasized that "all those aspects are specified in the government action program that was signed and submitted to the Supreme Council today."

It remains only to hope that the shift to the left made by both the president and the prime minister has been left behind. Moreover, we want to believe that the Ukrainian path toward the market will be turned if not into a highway at least into a one-way road. Thank God, if this is implemented, because the people have been already made sick.

Positive External Trade Balance Reported for 1995

AU2909094695 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Our Partners — 117 Countries of the World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time this year, Ukraine has attained a positive balance of external trade.

Over seven months of 1995, 6,200 Ukrainian enterprises and organizations with various forms of ownership exported their products and goods worth $5,777.2 million to 117 countries of the world. This is 103 percent of the volume of exports over seven months of 1994.

Thus, for the first time since the beginning of 1995, a positive balance of external trade has taken shape — $38.9 million.

The external trade turnover for seven months of 1995 constitutes $11,515.5 million, which is more than $2 million greater than over six months of 1994.

The most significant export deliveries were to the Russian Federation, the United States, Germany, China, Belarus, Switzerland, Great Britain, Austria, Turkey, and India.

More than 6,800 Ukrainian enterprises and organizations imported goods and products worth $5,738.3 million (96 percent of the total import over seven months of 1994) from 107 countries of the world.

The Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Great Britain, Belarus, Poland, and the United States have become major importers.

The orientation of the Ukrainian economy largely toward the countries of the former USSR is gradually becoming evened out, and countries of "far-abroad" are gradually increasing their share in the overall volume of commodity export-import. For example, whereas in 1994, they accounted for 44.6 percent of the overall volume of exports and 22.1 percent of the overall volume of imports, over the same period of 1995, the estimates are 50.3 percent for exports and 34.1 percent for imports.

Black Sea Oil Prospectors Find 'Promising Results'

MM2909103595 Moscow TRUD in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The Black Sea Is a Sea Of Oil. Ukrainian Scientists Conclude That Under the Seabed There Is Another Bed — a Bed of Oil"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New deposits of oil and gas, which Ukraine is so short of, have been explored. Scientists on the scientific research ship Kiyiv have returned from a Black Sea voyage with some promising results. They have reached the conclusion that under the seabed there is another bed — a bed of oil.

The republic's annual energy requirements are around 50 million tonnes of oil and 100 billion cubic meters of gas. But four million tonnes of oil and 18 billion cubic meters of gas are extracted. The rest has to be bought. Which is why during his Crimea trips Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has unequivocally stated that there is no task more important for Ukraine than gas and oil exploration and extraction on the Azov-Black Sea shelf.

Aside from the "Shtormovoye" gas-condensate deposit off the Crimean coast, discovered 15 years ago, another nine have been found at depths of between 10 and 80 meters above [as published] sea level. The researchers returning on the Kiyiv claim that they have found several mud volcanoes on the bed of the Black Sea, and this is one of the main signs of the presence of oil deposits on the shelf.

"Finding its oil deposits is no longer a problem," Aleksandr Shiptsov, general director of the National Agency for Marine Research and Technology, said. "The problem now is who is going to develop them. To farm them out to foreign forms would be a mistake. Once they had obtained licenses they would be unlikely to provide Ukraine with oil and gas. We have to get our own specialists and enterprises to work the deposits. And it would be best to place the orders for drilling equipment with local enterprises."

But this view is unlikely to be shared by Kiev officials. As far as we know, the Ukrainian authorities are more interested in getting Western companies to develop the Black Sea shelf.

Belarus

Transport of Nuclear Weapons to Russia Suspended

LD2809120895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 28 (Itar-Tass) — Nuclear weapons will be moved from Belarus to Russia after a political decision is taken, Major-General Vladimir Verkhovtsev, senior official of the Main Operational Department of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, said at a press conference here today. The topic of the press conference was nuclear safety at facilities of the Russian Defence Ministry. According to Verkhovtsev, the Russian Armed Forces have technical resources for the transportation of nuclear warheads, and the operation for taking them to processing plants will "not last long."

According to international agreements, all strategic nuclear weapons of the former USSR should be moved from Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus to the Russian territory. They have already been moved from Kazakhstan for further utilisation. In the opinion of specialists, Ukraine is procrastinating this process by putting forward various additional conditions.

According to General Verkhovtsev, the transportation of nuclear weapons from Belarus has been temporarily suspended. He did not elaborate on the reasons for it and made it clear to journalists that it is not the business of army officers to interfere in big politics. Experts specialising on strategic studies, interviewed by Tass, maintain that the initiative to suspend this process comes from Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

Experts believe that nuclear weapons will hardly be moved from Belarus to Russia within the fixed time limit — before the end of 1995. According to their information, the transportation to Russia of mobile complexes Topol, fitted with nuclear warheads, will begin no earlier than 1997.

Lukashenka: Destruction of Conventional Arms Resumed

LD2809184895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Sept 28 (Interfax-West) — Belarus has resumed the destruction of conventional arms under the CFE treaty, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka declared at a Thursday [28 September] meeting with U.S. businessmen in Minsk.

He said the political decision was made a month ago after the Minsk visit of German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who expressed the common Western stance on the issue. The West offered guarantees of financing the destruction programs.

After scrapping 70 percent of the arms, Belarus suspended the process last spring under Lukashenka's decision in the absence of resources.

One of the official reasons for the suspension was that 25 percent of the national budget was spent on programs related to the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Agreement Signed With Russia on Funding Baltic Border

LD2809192995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Heads of the Belarus and Russian border control departments signed an agreement between the governments of two states on funding the equipping of the Belarusian state border with Latvia and Lithuania, the chief of the main directorate of border troops, Vasil Markowkin reported.

The agreement says that Belarus and Russia pledged that each of them would pay 50 percent of expenses needed to equip the state borders. According to Markowkin, first of all, demarcation of state borders on site will be carried out as soon as possible and then a border zone will be set up and equipped. Russia will help Belarus by supplying fuel and equipment to border troops, such as communications equipment and vehicles.

There are no immediate plans to increase the number of border troops, Mr. Markowkin maintained; however, he said that if Lithuania and Latvia started strengthening their borders, Belarus will respond in the same way.

According to Mr. Markowkin, the crime situation, which mainly consists of illegal immigration and smuggling on a large scale, can be improved by strengthening the control of the Belarus state border with the Baltic states.

The chief of the Belarus border troops stressed that Belarus had appealed to Lithuania and Latvia asking for their assistance in supplying equipment to the border troops, at least equipment for communications. However, a negative response was received. According to him this would have been also beneficial to the Baltic states, because the three states have much trouble caused by the stream of migrants.

Lukashenka Encourages Foreign Investment

LD2809215495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2013 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Sept 28 (Interfax-West) - Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said he thought it profitable for foreign investors to invest in his country's economy.

Lukashenka said at a meeting with a group of U.S. businessmen in Minsk today that he had formulated five reasons for U.S. businessmen to invest in Belarus.

"The first reason is Belarus's geographic situation. It is in the center of Europe where trading routes cross," he said. Lukashenka said U.S. businessmen should regard Belarus as "a spring-board for exploring the promising East European region."

Lukashenka said the second reason was that Belarus had the best developed transport infrastructure of the ex-USSR.

"Thirdly, Belarus has a high-skilled and relatively low-cost work force which is receptive to private initiatives," he said.

Lukashenka said the fourth reason was the stable political situation in Belarus and the country's non-involvement in armed conflicts.

"The guarantees from the republic's leadership for supporting investment programs and creating equal conditions for healthy competition" are the fifth reason for investing in Belarus, Lukashenka said.

He said the market-economy reforms in Belarus were obviously irreversible "but they will be carried out reasonably rather than spontaneously."

Lukashenka said he had approved the national privatization program today. He said he believed that this program would be the foundation for "dynamic reforms in the republic." Lukashenka said the first stage of the program's implementation provided for placing in private ownership 70 percent of national production assets.

Lukashenka said he planned to sign in the near future a decree on investment policy under which Belarusian land might be sold to foreign residents under the implementation of serious investment projects regarding production of agricultural products and medicine.

Lukashenka said he also intended to sign a decree on creating three free economic zones: near the Minsk-2 airport (50 kilometers away from Minsk), near the city of Brest and in the city of Gomel.

Supreme Soviet Refutes Allegations of Illegitimacy

WS2909103095 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0844 GMT 29 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The press-office of the Supreme Soviet refutes allegations that there was no quorum at the 18th parliamentary session. The press-office has made a statement in view of a press release which was distributed on September 27 by the Central Public and Political Information Board of the Presidential Administration, which read that the President did not sign the Supreme Soviet-adopted laws of the Republic of Belarus on the introduction of amendments into the laws on elections to the Supreme and local Soviets because they allegedly have no legal power, and therefore they will not be observed. "The press-office of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus has been empowered to declare that the country is ruled by the Constitution according to which a bill which is not returned by the President to the Supreme Soviet for repeat discussion and voting is considered signed and comes into force in accordance with its content." This principle, the statement reads, was laid down in the laws on the President (Point 14 of Article 17) and on the Supreme Soviet (Article 51) which was approved by Parliament in February 1995 and December 1994, respectively. Commenting on the argument adduced by the Central Public and Political Information Board that on the first day of the plenary sitting of the 18th session on September among the MPs who were registered as present was Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Ivan Bambiza though he did not take part in the session, and a quorum was reached in that way, the Supreme Soviet press-office asserts that Ivan Bambiza's absence was fixed by the secretariat. "Unfortunately, untrue information about this was distributed first by the SOVIETSKAYA BYElORUSSIA newspaper then by the Belarusian radio in the Radiofact program," the statement reads, "So the Presidential administration board and a number of publications call quorum at the session in question, but registration data gives the lie to it." Confirming the presence of confrontation between the legislative, executive and judicial power, the press-office says that confrontation is not the best way for the stabilization in society.

Moldova

Russian Army To Resume Destruction of Old Ammunition

AU2809183195 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1824 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, September 27 (INFOTAG) — The annihilation of ammunition with expired storage life, which was suspended on 17 August, will be resumed the next week, Russian contingent commander Lt. Gen. Valeriy Yevnevich told INFOTAG. The blasting operation was suspended on the demand of local power bodies — "for ecological reasons," he said. Currently, the Russian command are in negotiations with Dniester and Ukrainian local authorities with a view to resume the blasting next week.

"Ecological issues were agreed upon from the very beginning, and there were no problems with them. I have an impression that it was only a pretext to put forward new terms and, possibly, to demand payment from Russia. But there shall be no payment. Russia is interested in annihilating the ammunition to a degree no greater than Dniester and Ukraine are," he stressed.

In his belief, the Dniester and Ukrainian authorities will understand the situation and will permit to complete the work. By now 5,600 shells have been blasted already, with only 4,000 remaining. A week will be quite enough to complete the work, he said.

Article Views Deadlock in Talks With Dniester

AU2809132995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1936 GMT 26 Sep 95

[Commentary by Dan Ionescu, senior research analyst, Open Media Research Institute, Prague: "Russia's Long Arm and the Dniester Impasse"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Negotiations in early July between Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and the president of the self-styled "Dniester Moldovan Republic," Igor Smirnov, had "brought the two sides closer together than at any time since the 1992 fighting in the territory," as a BBC correspondent noticed at that time.

However, the next round of talks, held in Chisinau on 13 September, ended in a deadlock. Moreover, it practically reduced to nothing the achievements of previous negotiations, including the three accords initialed on 5 July. This shows, once more, how volatile the situation remains in the region, especially if Russian interests are at stake. Contrary to earlier pledges to withdraw its 14th Army from the area, Russia seems now increasingly determined to keep a military presence there. And it pressures Chisinau to accept the setting up of a Russian military base in the Dniester region as a price for brokering a solution to the Dniester conflict.

The 13 September fiasco came as no surprise to observers of the Moldovan scene, who had noticed in due time the campaign against any rapprochement with Chisinau staged in Tiraspol by leftwing radicals. Their main target was the July accord allowing the Moldovan leu to be used in clearing operations on the Dniester territory, in parallel to the local ruble. Vasiliy Yakovlev, leader of the Patriotic Forces Bloc, repeatedly denounced the plans as a capitulation to Moldova, and as an attempt to undermine both the Dniester sovereignty and economy. In his words, the currency agreement was a pact of "cooperation between a wolf and a hare." Yakovlev also demanded the removal of those guilty of this "act of treason," including Grigoriy Marakutsa, the chairman of the region's Supreme Soviet, and Vyacheslav Zagryadskiy, the governor of the Dniester Republican Bank. His attacks were joined by other ultraconservatives such as Nikolay Buchatskiy, the chairman of the influential Tiraspol City Soviet.

Concomitantly, the radicals started spreading leaflets throughout the region proclaiming that "our republic, its independence, and our freedom are in danger!" The Moldovan leu, the appeal said, "is the destroyer of our language and culture, economy, and politics, of our state and our future," and an instrument within the hands of the "pro-Romanian cabal." Such language is probably one a population apparently suffering from a "bunker syndrome" understands best.

Ever since the armed conflict with Moldova in the spring and summer of 1992, in which hundreds of people died on both sides, local propagandists have diligently produced an entire literature presenting the region as a victim of "Moldovan aggression." Their brochures denounce what they describe, in rather extravagant terms, as the "ethno-bureaucratic, fascist regime" in Chisinau or the "Moloch of Moldovan militarism." Needless to say that such hyperbolism has no connection whatsoever with the realities in this second-smallest former Soviet republic (33,700 square kilometers; 4.36 million inhabitants.) Moldova started building its modest military forces only after proclaiming its independence on 27 August 1991, that is, less than one year before the fighting in the Dniester region.

Faced with growing pressure from the left, the Dniester leadership gradually backed away from its more concessive stance, and returned to its initial position of demanding that Chisinau recognize the independence and sovereignty of the Dniester Republic as a precondition for any further negotiations. The 5th anniversary of the republic's proclamation on 2 September offered Smirnov and his men an opportunity to demonstrate their unflinching attachment to the idea of an independent Dniester state. The ceremonies were attended by a group of deputies of the Russian State Duma belonging to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party, who publicly supported a referendum in the Dniester region to decide over its inclusion in the Russian Federation.

On 9 September Smirnov went to Moscow to address an extraordinary meeting of the Duma devoted to the Bosnian crisis. His request to be given the floor provoked a fist-fighting between those in favor and those opposing it. He finally was allowed to address the Duma's influential Agrarian Party faction. Smirnov drew a parallel between the fate of the Slavs in [illegible] and in Pridnestrovye [Dniester region]. He [illegible] the Russian deputies to either "promote the [illegible]ester statehood or to make the region part of Russia," since, he said, this was "ancient Russian land." Two days later Moldova's Foreign Ministry issued an official statement sharply criticizing the Duma for having committed "an unfriendly act" toward Moldova, designed "to hamper the negotiating process by encouraging Tiraspol to reject any reasonable compromise." It further spoke of an attempt by some Russian political forces to make electoral capital at home.

By that date it must have been clear to everybody that the probability for the oncoming negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol to yield any positive results was next to null. The talks, indeed, failed not only to achieve any progress in defining the legal status of the breakaway region, but also to solve such practical matters as the question of restoring the bridges over the Dniester River destroyed in the 1992 fighting. Unlike in June or July, the sides were unable to sign a joint statement or indicate a date for a next round of talks. The only grain of hope may reside in the fact that despite the obvious setback in negotiations, both Chisinau and Tiraspol later expressed their willingness to continue efforts to solve the conflict. But they did so in rather vague terms and without any concrete commitments. Michael Wygant, head of the OSCE mission in Chisinau, who, together with the envoys of the Russian and — for the first time — Ukrainian presidents, had brokered the talks, suggested that it was vital under the circumstances to keep the door open for further negotiations.

The explanation for the current impasse is far from simple. With elections scheduled for December for both the Dniester Supreme Soviet and the Russian Duma, electoral reasons may well have played a role in Tiraspol, as well as in Moscow, where extremists seem eager to "play the Dniester card in the Russian political game."

Moldova's current political crisis, caused by the split in the ruling Agrarian Democratic Party and by Snegur's decision to set up his own political organization, has further complicated the situation. It awakened Dniester leaders' deep-seated apprehensions that Moldova might now return to a more pro-Romanian orientation, and forced them to adopt a wait-and-see attitude. On the other hand, senior Moldovan politicians seem increasingly tempted to use a possible settlement of the Dniester conflict in order to consolidate their own positions.

Beyond these explanations, however, some recent developments connected with the Dniester issue seem to indicate a change in Moscow's line as well. And this despite assurances given to Snegur by President Boris Yeltsin through his foreign policy adviser Dmitriy Ryurikov that he continued to "unequivocally" support both the settlement of the Dniester conflict and "Moldova's (territorial) integrity." Senior Moldovan officials expressed "concern" to Ryurikov over recent reports in the media over the transfer of military equipment from the 14th Army to the Dniester armed forces. They also expressed discontent at the participation of Russian troops in the 2 September parade in Tiraspol. Moldova's Deputy Interior Minister Victor Catana told Ryurikov that a new Yeltsin-Snegur summit was needed to bring clarification on Russia's stance.

Among the most disquieting signals recently launched by Moscow was an announcement by the Russian Ambassador in Chisinau, Aleksandr Papkin, that his embassy planned to open a consulate in Tiraspol in order to handle the "numerous requests (from Dniester inhabitants to be granted) Russian citizenship." If the plans take shape, one may soon witness a registration en masse of Dniester inhabitants — most of whom completely Russified, irrespective of their ethnic background — as Russian citizens. Several organizations, including the Community of Russian Compatriots, set up in Tiraspol on 30 July, are busily drawing up lists of people interested in obtaining Russian citizenship, whom they tempt with the right to work and be educated in the Russian "fatherland." Together with the planned referendum on the republic's inclusion in the Russian Federation, such a move might put both Russian moderates and the international community before accomplished deeds. The tiny region might cease overnight to be a "Zero Land" — as an IZVESTIA described it — and become a Russian territorial enclave instead: a rather disturbing prospect for both Moldova and Ukraine.

Recuitment of 14th Army Policemen a Planned 'Provocation'

MM2809112095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Gamova: "Have the Moldovan Police Recruited Two Soldiers from the 14th Army?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chisinau — I. Zhosan and V. Landarev, servicemen with the 14th Army, were simultaneously officers in the Moldovan police. This sensational report has caused local journalists to claim that the two "cossacks" had been sent in. Admittedly, the question "sent by whom" remains unanswered. But the real scandal broke out when the lieutenants were arrested by the Dniester Prosecutor's Office on criminal charges.

First it transpired that prior to 1993 the two men were investigators working for the Dniester region

[Pridnestrovye] MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]. Second, the Moldovan delegation to the joint control commission monitoring the Dniester safe zone stated that Russia's Main Military Prosecutor's Office was involved in the arrest of the Moldovan citizens — a statement that was later repeated by representatives of the Moldovan MVD at an impromptu news conference. According to the Moldovan MVD, the main reason for the arrest is "the policemen's involvement in the investigation of the murder of a 14th Army servicemen called Golikov in December last year."

There was much discussion about Golikov's murder in Tiraspol at that time. General Lebed, then commander of the 14th Army, linked it to the Dniester security service. The Dniester side laid the blame squarely on Colonel Bergman, commander of the Tiraspol garrison, under whose command the arrested men served, incidentally. The case has not been cleared up, however. At a news conference at the Moldovan MVD in this connection it was noted that the Dniester Prosecutor's Office's present actions are nothing more than an attempt to gather compromising material against A. Lebed, who is standing for the State Duma. In the Dniester region they are insisting that the arrested men are criminals.

Lieutenant General Valeriy Yevnevich, Lebed's successor in Tiraspol, has stated that Russia's Military Prosecutor's Office has nothing to do with this incident. The Moldovan MVD news conference, in his opinion, is an "attempt to discredit the Russian Armed Forces." Zhosan and Landarev were dismissed on his orders on 25 August this year but, it turned out, they were recruited into the Moldovan police in the city of Bendery back in March. Yevnevich has two questions: Why did the Bendery police commissioner not inform the command of the Russian group of forces about this, and how did Col Bergman, commander of the Tiraspol garrison, accept Moldovan citizens for service?

As for the actions of the Moldovan police commissioner and the position of the republic's MVD, Yevnevich believes: "This is a carefully planned act of provocation designed to aggravate the political situation in the region as much as possible and disinform the Moldovan leadership."

Legislator Objects to Snegur Initiative on Land Trading

AU2809153995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1824 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, September 27 (INFOTAG) — An attempt to clash the interests of the PDAM [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova] leadership with those of peasants — that's how Mr. Vasile Rusu, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Agriculture and Processing Industry, has regarded President Snegur's legislative initiative to make land tradable.

Mr. Rusu told INFOTAG that Parliament had already passed a law on sales of subsidiary household and summer cottage plots, but the population is in no hurry to buy the land. Out of 120 thousand suburban cottage plots, only 15 thousand families who cultivate them showed a wish to purchase the land.

In Vasile Rusu's opinion, if land becomes tradable, a situation may emerge when peasants will have to sell their land plots which feed their families, and go and work on other people's land as farm-hands. He reminded that rich people may invest their money in industries and service sector, but they may not invest in land.

"Snegur's advisers, who prepared the legislative initiative on land sales, are thus seeking to clash the interests of agrarian democrats and peasants. And his another initiative, on renaming the official language, seeks to drive in a wedge between the agrarians and the intelligentsia," Rusu stressed.

Kazakhstan

Caspian Sea Littoral States Hold Conference

LD2809162195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Bondartsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY September 28 (Itar-Tass) - An expert conference on the legal status of the Caspian Sea finished in the Kazakh capital Almaty today.

The conference was attended by delegations of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Russia, also a littoral state, has not sent its delegation.

A revisited legal status, the draft of which was submitted by Kazakhstan, envisions a compromise between Russia and Azerbaijan.

The compromise lies in the concept which would make the Caspian basin and air space available for common use by the five littoral states.

The draft proposes division of the sea bottom and its natural resources into five economic zones.

The conference is to continue work in December of this year in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat.

Kazakh Deputy Minister on Agreements

LD2809183895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Sept 28 (Interfax) — The second meeting of heads of foreign-ministry legal departments of the Caspian coastal countries ended in Almaty late last night. Representatives of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iran took part. The Russian delegation did not show up for technical reasons.

Deputy Kazakh Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Gizzatov told reporters in Almaty on Wednesday [27 September] that at the meeting delegates had coordinated main principles for the activities of the coastal states at the Caspian Sea. These include, he said, "respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the carrying out of any activities for purely peaceful purposes to make the Caspian Sea a zone of peace, friendship and neighborliness."

The delegates also agreed to protect the environment, use rationally biological resources of the Sea, bear responsibility for the damage caused to the environment and to each other, as well as to ensure the safety of trade navigation.

Gizzatov said that these are not the complete list of principles and the work on them will continue at the next meeting in Ashgabat in December.

He also said that the delegates of the Almaty meeting spoke positively about the renewed draft convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea which was submitted to the meeting by Kazakhstan (the initial version was submitted in 1993, and Russia submitted its version in August, 1995 —IF).

He said that Kazakhstan's draft convention will be discussed together with other versions at the next meeting of the coastal countries.

Gizzatov also said that the negotiators "expressed regret over the absence of the Russian delegation at the Almaty round of talks."

Nazarbayev Decrees Elections to Two-House Parliament

LD2809173495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Sept 28 (Interfax) — Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on Thursday [28 September] signed a decree on the elections to the new parliament of the republic.

Kazakhstan will have a two-house parliament with the Senate being the upper house and Majles the lower one, reports the president's press service.

The decree comes into effect from the moment of its publication. According to the presidential spokesman, the decree will be made public on September 30.

The spokesman also said that "later the president will sign a decree on the elections in which he will set the date for them." According to him, Nazarbayev "repeatedly said that the elections would take place already this year."

In march 1995, Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court recognized as illegitimate the republic's parliament of the previous convocation. In the absence of parliament the president has the right to issue decrees having the force of laws and Constitutional laws.

Turkmenistan

Education Agreement Signed With China

LD2709125695 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1530 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement between Turkmenistan and China on cooperation in the field of education has been signed in Beijing. An agreement on cooperation in the field of education in 1995-1997 has been signed between the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan and the State Education Commission of China. The document is aimed at promoting the exchange of students, postgraduate students, language students, teachers of Turkmen and Chinese, delegations of employees in the field of education, information about educational reforms, teaching experience and educational materials, as well as establishing mutual links and developing cooperation between higher education institutes in the two countries.

A. Rakhmanov, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to China, signed the agreement on behalf of the Turkmen Ministry of Education. He told representatives of the press that Turkmen-Chinese relations are being developed in a dynamic and consistent way. The inter-departmental document designed to promote and deepen links and cooperation between the two countries in the field of culture, signed on the basis of the inter-governmental agreement, is evidence of this.

Niyazov Interviewed on 'Positive Neutrality' Policy

LD2809125195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1009 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabat, September 28 (ITAR-TASS) — Turkmenistan intends to proclaim its status of a neutral state and a peace-making zone in Asia at the jubilee session of the United Nations, Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov said here on Thursday.

"Our neutrality," he noted in an interview with Itar-Tass, "is continuation of the inner foundations of the state which, reproducing its national experience under new historic conditions, should ensure guaranteed existance for itself also from the viewpoint of its own security."

From the viewpoint of political pragmatism, Turkmenistan "was motivated by a desire to ensure its own security once and for all", Niyazov stressed. "Shifting to a new geostrategic centre in turbulant Asia, we understood that we turn to be 'a juicy chunk' which would draw attention in some or rather way.

"The world reserves of oil and gas are not a trifling thing. Therefore, we put forth an idea of positive neutrality. On the other hand, we proclaimed a slogan: All who respect us, are welcome to share our riches together with us.

"This slogan was heeded at first by some, then by others and still by third countries," the Turkmen leader continued.

"This is how our positive neutrality started working in practice, in the process of combining interests and acquiring traits and properties of peace-making pragmatism," Niyazov underlined.

"The economic calculations on which our neutral policy is based, worked flawlessly: The idea of cooperation with countries in the region, buttressed by several transcontinental projects suggested by our country, developed into a real chance to create a peace-making zone in our territory."

"Turkmenistan supports its peace-loving aspirations with the firmly pursued policy of non-interference," the Turkmen chief executive added. He noted that the republic has not joined a single alliance or bloc which oversteps the limits of economic or humanitarian cooperation.

Turkmenistan has not participated in a single international conflict, no matter how close it happend.

"The United Nations started to regard us as a country, capable of helping to settle regional disputes and conflicts. This idea has its logic: Preserving peace at our home and helping to spread it in the region, we ensure conditions for strengthening our independence with assistance from our partners," Niyazov claimed.

"I believe that this mutually dependable formula will act as a new mechanism of containment and peace-making activities in the Asian region which is living through a difficult time in its history."

Ruling Party Seeks Niyazov as 'Lifelong' Leader

LD2809180095 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1015 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 27 Sep (TURKMEN PRESS) — The eighth plenum of the Political Council of the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan was held in Ashgabat today. It considered the progress of implementation of resolutions of the plena of the Political Council on fulfillment of Turkmen President Saparmyrad Turkmenbashy Niyazov's "ten years of stability" policy and the issue of convening the second congress of the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan [DPT].

The eighth plenum of the Political Council of the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan cancelled the decision of the seventh plenum to convene the first party-wide conference and made the decision to convene the second congress of the DPT in the first half of 1996. Those who spoke at the plenum proposed to put down for consideration by the DPT congress the subject of giving Saparmyrad Turkmenbashy lifelong powers to lead the party and state.

Armenia

Minsk Group Delegation Visits Stepanakert

NC2809210095 Yerevan SNARK in English 0854 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert, September 28 (SNARK) — NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] President Robert Kocharyan received an OSCE delegation headed by the OSCE Minsk Conference co-Chairmen Heikki Talvitie (Finland) and Valentin Lozinskiy (Russia).

Aleksandr Grigoryan, Press Secretary of the NKR President, informed SNARK that the participants of the meeting exchanged their opinions about the further steps forward settling the Karabakh conflict.

Talvitie described the basic principles according to which the Minsk Group intends to help the conflicting sides reach mutually accepted compromise. Talvitie stressed that key issues of the conflict settlement should also be compromised on.

According to the OSCE representatives, the conflicting sides show readiness to maintain the cease-fire terms in the future, to establish direct contacts with one another, including on the highest level.

Addressing to the delegation, Kocharyan in his turn, underlined that the OSCE mission the present stage of the peacekeeping process should be taken into account and clarified by the OSCE principles of the conflict resolution.

Today the OSCE delegation left for Yerevan.

Kocharyan Disputes Peace Talks Approach

NC2809215595 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] President Robert Kocharyan today received an OSCE delegation headed by cochairmen of OSCE Minsk Conference on Karabakh Heikki Talvitie, from Finland, and Valentin Lozinskiy from Russia.

The participants in the talks exchanged views on the future steps in the peace process for the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

Mr. Talvitie enumerated those basic issues on which the Minsk Group bases its efforts to assist the conflicting sides to find mutually acceptable solutions. The Finnish diplomat drew the attention of those present to the need for mutual concessions during the peace talks.

The OSCE representatives noted that it is important for the conflicting sides to confirm their readiness to continue abiding by the cease-fire agreement. They favored direct contacts between the conflicting sides, including at the highest levels.

Robert Kocharyan drew the delegation's attention to the necessity to take into account the present realities of the peace process, something which in the opinion of NKR president has been insufficiently reflected in the principles of solution enumerated by OSCE mission.

The OSCE delegation included cochairmen of Minsk Group Renee Niberg, from Finland, Vladimir Kazimirov, from Russia, and representatives of the United States, Switzerland, and Turkey, and other officials.

Foreign Minister Arkadi Ghukasyan, Defense Minister Samuel Papayan, head of the State Directorate for National Security Aleksandr Aghasaryan, members of the NKR presidential staff, and Foreign Ministry officials took part in the meeting on Karabakh's side.

National Assembly Approves Privatization Program

NC2809141995 Yerevan SNARK in English 1533 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, Sep 27 (SNARK) — Today the National Assembly of Armenia approved of a privatization program for state owned enterprises and unfinished construction projects for 1995. The basis for the program are the amendments and additions of the privatization program approved by the Armenian Supreme Council on January 12, 1994.

The adoption of the resolution was preceded by spirited debates, during which the deputies expressed their concerns to Armenia's Minister of Economy Andranik Andreasyan about the increase of unemployment caused by the privatization of medium and large enterprises. Besides, according to the parliamentarians, the starting price of the enterprises to be privatized are too low.

The Chairman of Armenia's National Assembly declared that it is necessary for the National Assembly to control the privatization processes.

Azerbaijan

U.S. Embassy Corrects Report on Ambassador's Remarks

NC2809191095 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, in his report on yesterday's news conference of the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Kauzlarich, our correspondent Ramiz Meshedihesenli said the following: The ambassador said that security in the region and the restoration of peace depend largely on the activities of the countries belonging to the oil consortium.

The U.S. Embassy press office says that in reporting the ambassador's views, the journalist was inaccurate. He should have said: The restoration of peace and security in the region will also have a positive bearing on the activity of the oil consortium.

German Firms To Participate in Caspian Oil Development

NC2809195395 Baku TURAN in English
1316 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/28.09.95/TURAN — Today Michael Schmunk, the German Embassy's Head of Mission to Azerbaijan held a press-conference devoted to the 5th anniversary of unification of the FRG and DDR [German Democratic Republic].

He said that after destruction of the Berlin's wall on October 3, 1990 two German States rejoined. "It was a dream of each man in Germany, unification of Germany was our national aim," Mr. Schmunk said.

Speaking about the problems of Azerbaijan he said that the settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict is a great national problem. "Position of Germany in that question remain unchangeable — the occupied territories belong to Azerbaijan including Nagorno-Karabakh, Shusha and Lachin. We think that Azerbaijan has right to have sovereignty over all these territories. [no close quote marks as received] He expressed a hope that the refugees and displaced people return to their native lands as soon as possible.

Mr. Schmunk noted that the problem of refugees was actual for Germany too after the Second World war. "Even in 40's years Stalin departured from Azerbaijan many German families. We know well what it means to be a refugee and that is why, in addition to political aid we provide also humanitarian to Azerbaijan. [no close quote marks as received] The Head of Mission noted that he supports only peaceful resolution of the conflict within the frameworks of the Minsk conference. According to him, the process of settling the conflict goes very slowly, however he expressed a hope that this problem will proceed by joint efforts. "The most important moments for Azerbaijan are: withdrawal of the occupation troops from the occupied territories, status of Lachin and, of course, the fate of Shusha," Mr. Schmunk underlined.

He said that the opinion of Germany is this: Nagorno-Karabakh should remain within the borders of Azerbaijan with great degree of autonomy. "But great degree of autonomy does not mean entire sovereignty," he said.

Mr. Schmunk noted that the observers from Germany will come to the upcoming parliamentary elections. Among them are the deputies of Bundestag, experts of independent organisations, as well as representatives of Germany entering the delegations of the UN, OSCE and Europarliament.

Concerning the economic relations between the Germany and Azerbaijan Mr. Schmunk said that they were developing successfully. "German firms are interested not in taking out the Azeri resources but in adjusting of production here," he said. According to him, Germany is going to take part in the work of oil consortiums in the fields "Karabakh" and "Shahdeniz". He said that one firm from Hamburg has already set up a JV "AZGERNEFT" in Azerbaijan and is dealing with oil production. "Besides oil, there are a lot of branches in which we will be able to co-operate," Mr. Schmunk noted.

Radio Liberty Broadcasts Interrupted; Reasons Suspect

NC2809200595 Baku TURAN in English
1316 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/28.09.95/TURAN — Broadcast of radio station "Liberty" in Azeri language has been stopped for five days. An agreement about broadcast of the program of "Liberty" to Azerbaijan on middle waves was signed between the Ministry of Communication of Azerbaijan and the representative of that radio station in 1993. Since then radio "Liberty" transfers a certain amount of money on the account of the Ministry of Communication for re-broadcast of programs to the territory of the country.

According to the branch of the Ministry of Communications the broadcast was stopped due to "technical problems". However, it became known from reliable sources that the broadcast was stopped at the instruction of the authorities. The observers consider that such a decision was taken due to forthcoming parliamentary elections. The purpose is to reduce the probability of broadcasting of the information which is not profitable for the leadership of Azerbaijan.

Presently the citizens of Azerbaijan can listen to the Azeri program of radio "Liberty" on short waves.

Georgia

Germany Presents Shevardnadze With Armored Mercedes

LD2809154495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network
in Georgian 1300 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] German Federal Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel sent a letter to Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state. The letter reads:

Dear Mr. Chairman, I was shocked by the news about the attempt on your life. At the same time, I was relieved when I heard that you were only slightly hurt. Germany owes you much and if only because of this we are prepared to provide you with an armored car to insure your personal security for the period you are head of state. A Mercedes-Benz armored car will arrive in Tbilisi from Stuttgart as soon as possible. I wish you personally all the best. With friendly regards. Yours, Klaus Kinkel.

Iran Offers Loan for Repairs to Hydroelectric Plant

LD2809211695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 28 Sep 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Georgian-Iranian commission ended its work in Tbilisi Wednesday producing a memorandum on bilateral economic cooperation.

Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili and Iranian Economics and Finance Minister Morteza Mohammad-Khani signed the document.

The Georgian government press center told Interfax that the memorandum defined the main principles of bilateral cooperation in economics, trade, banking, industry, agriculture, transport, communications, science and research.

The document stipulated that the two countries will use their capabilities and potential to maintain cooperation in any other areas of mutual interest.

The head of Georgia's energy distributor Gruzenergo met with officials of the Iranian Energy Company, which offered a loan of several million U.S. dollars for three years for repairs on the Zhinvalskaya Hydroelectric Power Plant. The two countries' experts are working out a mechanism for and conditions of granting the loan.

The commission agreed to meet in session next summer in Tehran.

Foreign Minister: Abkhaz Side Trying 'To Gain Time'

LD2809174795 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An honest settlement of the Abkhazian conflict requires that the displaced people be returned to their domicile without any precondition and Abkhazia's political status within united Georgia be determined. This was said by Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze at the session of the UN General Assembly on 27 September. This is neither someone's personal wish nor a matter of principle. This is a vital fact that will come into effect sooner or later, the Georgian representative said. He said the Abkhaz side was impeding the process of negotiations in order to gain time. The Abkhaz side is waiting for the results of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Russia and hopes that political priorities will be revised and changed in favor of a pro-Abkhaz stand.

Government, Trade Unions Sign Agreement

LD2809143395 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press service of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers reports that a general agreement has been concluded between the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers and the Georgian Association of Trade Unions. The agreement mainly includes commitments for employment of citizens, payment for work, and other social aspects taken by the Cabinet of Ministers, along with reciprocal guarantees. Beginning today, the government takes responsibility for implementing each paragraph of the agreement.

The agreement was signed by Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Bakur Gulua, on behalf of the government, and Irakli Tughushi, chairman of the Georgian Association of Trade Unions, on behalf of the trade unions.

ITAR-TASS Profiles Six Candidates for Presidency

LD2809155195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 28 Sep 95

[By Tenghiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, September 28 (Itar-Tass) — The last date fixed for submitting lists of electorates supporting any candidate for Georgian Presidential elections to the Central Election Commission has expired. Out of 11, six candidates have collected the necessary number of signatures, a minimum of 50 thousand, Itar-Tass was told in the Central Election Commission today.

The registered presidential candidates are Eduard Shevardnadze, Dzumber Patiashvili, Panteleimon Georgadze, Kartlos Garibashvili, Roin Lipertaliani and Akaki Barkadze.

Eduard Shevardnadze's candidature has been put forward by the Union of Georgia's citizens, which collected 105 thousand signatures of electorates in his support, and the Socialist Party of Georgia (69 thousand signatures). Shevardnadze is 68 years old. He was elected chairman of Georgia's State Council in March 1992, and has been occupying the post of Parliament's Chairman — head of state of Georgia since October 1992.

An initiative group of electorates supporting Dzumber Patiashvili collected 105 thousand signatures. He is 70 and a retired General, and for several years served in the Soviet Union's armed forces. He is considered to be an orthodox communist. He has never concealed in his public speeches that he is fighting for the Soviet Union's restoration.

Kartolos Garibashvili has been recommended by an initiative group of citizens, which collected 75 thousand signatures of electorates in his support. He is 41, a jurist by profession and a deputy of the present Georgian parliament.

Roin Lipertaliani is chairman of the Agrarian Party. 94 thousand electorates have put their signatures in his support. He is 44 years old and also a member of the republic's parliament.

Akaki Barkadze has been proposed as a candidate by the "Society of Iiia Chavchavadze". This organization is in the opposition of the current Georgian leadership. The 67-year-old candidate's application carries signatures of 64 thousand electorates. He was against Georgia joining the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and on many issues takes a right-radical stand.

Estonia

Government To Apply for EU Membership by December

LD2809171895 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonia intends to apply formally for European Union membership as early as at the end of November or beginning of December. Endel Lippmaa, the Estonian minister for European affairs without portfolio, told BNS that the government will discuss the membership application in late November. Thereafter, it will be submitted to the EU immediately. This was the decision taken at today's cabinet meeting.

Lippmaa said that both the government and President Lennart Meri were in agreement about the fairly speedy timetable. According to the minister for European affairs, it should take no time to bring Estonian laws in line with the European ones, as Estonia has already completed preparatory work and we are talking about a relatively small country.

At the same time, Lippmaa said that the three Baltic states need not join the EU at the same time, regardless of the fact that they are often regarded in Europe as a unit. According to Lippmaa, the EU will be considering each country's application on an individual basis and no blocs will be recognized on this issue.

Latvia

Political Party Leaders Back Joining EU, NATO

WS2809134795 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Sept 28, BNS — Politicians of Latvia's largest parties are convinced that the state must integrate into the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The newspaper Neatkariga Rita Avize (Independent Morning Paper) Wednesday published interviews with leaders of five political organizations who gave their comment on what must be done to join EU and NATO.

The chairman of the nationally liberal alliance Latvia's Way, Valdis Birkavs, thinks that the shortest and fastest way to security and welfare of Latvia is the way toward EU. Latvia must bring approx. 1,500 laws in line with EU standards, participate in the structural dialogue as well as implement the pre-admission strategy. Birkavs says that Latvia will use every opportunity to become a full-fledged member of NATO.

The co-chairman of the left-centric Democratic Party "Saimnieks," Juris Celmins, says that Latvia's joining to EU must be promoted, but admits that a careful analysis of possible economic, demographical, social and other consequences must be carried out.

Celmins expresses concern over the quota of refugee admission, set in the EU countries. He thinks that too many foreigners have arrived in Latvia over the last 50 years.

Celmins says that joining to NATO could be the best guarantee for Latvia's security but admits that it must be thought over if our country and army are financially ready to provide the necessary contribution to the Western military alliance.

The chairman of the nationally radical union Homeland and Freedom, Maris Grinblats, says that, in case the Baltic states are not able to coordinate views in customs, trade, immigration and economic issues, serious obstacles will emerge and hamper their joining to EU. The governments of the Baltic states must do all possible to level out this policy.

The leader of the right-centric Latvian Farmers Union, Andris Rozentals, thinks that people must be given an opportunity to read the White Book so that they knew "what we will get and what is expected from us." The union supports also Latvia's joining to NATO.

The chairman of the National Conservative Party LNNK, Anna Seile, says that Latvia must not only be ready to implement EU conditions but also make production which is able to compete in the world market. She says that laws must be coordinated with EU requirements by creating goods' quality standards, recognized in Europe. Seile thinks that Latvia must try to join NATO by setting up professional defense forces and well-trained Home Guard.

Nearly all political parties, running for the 6th parliament elections, say that Latvia must join the European Union.

Lithuania

Right-Wing 'Coup' Rumored for 19 Oct

MM2809130095 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Vladas Bikulichyus: "Coup In Lithuania?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vilnius — Lithuania is awash with rumors about a coup allegedly planned by right-wing forces for 19 October. The chairman of the Seimas Commission To Investigate Economic Crimes warned of the possibility, but without citing any specific data. Commentators give assurances that the rally organized by them on 14 September outside the Seimas was inspired by the government so that it would have an excuse to introduce a state of emergency. But it was they who promised to make fall the time of their resolute, offensive against the government of "ex-Communists." Local Russians and Poles are worried — they certainly know that the era of "left-wing" coups in Lithuania is past. They are remember that two years ago, immediately after the departure of the last Russian military unit from Lithuania, a detachment of "volunteers" from Kaunas took to the woods, refusing to submit to the government.

Meanwhile a Seimas commission to combat corruption is expected to be set up, since the opposition has made charges against the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party leadership and the government which are serious in tone but have not yet been corroborated by any documents.

Foreign Minister Thanks U.S. for Support

LD2809132995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys says security in Europe cannot be guaranteed without the United States carrying out active policies in central and eastern Europe. According to a report from the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington D.C. which was forwarded to ELTA, the foreign minister made this statement yesterday at his meeting with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

Povilas Gylys, who is in the United States on an official three-day visit, noted that Lithuania feels less secure than the countries of central Europe. He expressed his gratitude for the United States' support, outlined the priorities of Lithuania's foreign and domestic policies, and gave his assessment of Lithuania's relations with neighboring countries.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said that the United States supports the Baltic countries, attaches great importance to their security, and supports political and economic reforms that are carried out in these countries. He encouraged the Baltic states to continue their active participation in the Partnership for Peace program.

Explaining the U.S. view on the problems of security in Europe and the expansion of NATO, Talbott stressed that the United States will oppose any infringement of Lithuania's sovereignty. After that, Povilas Gylys met with Benjamin Gilman, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and with Samuel Berger, deputy assistant to President for national security affairs.

Minister Says NATO Not 'Danger' to Russia

LD2809215895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2013 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, Sept 28 (INTERFAX) — Lithuania's steps towards NATO are not aimed against Russia, Lithuanian Homeguard Minister Linas Linkevicius told INTERFAX Thursday.

Linkevicius said NATO did not represent a danger to Russia, but sought to develop bilateral relations. "The final word in this issue rests with Russia, which should not isolate itself or posture itself in opposition to other states," he added.

Linkevicius reiterated that his country will never drop its main strategic goal, equal membership in NATO and the Western European Union.

"Like other small states, we cannot guarantee our security on our own and have to integrate into collective security institutions," he added.

"We simply have no other choice, since there is no other institution other than NATO to ensure the security of Lithuania and the Baltic region," he underlined.

Asked about last week's agreement on military cooperation with Turkey, Linkevicius said bilateral ties with NATO member-states "promote the republic's faster integration in NATO and the Western European Union."

In addition, Turkey has the second largest army in NATO after the U.S. "To gain such an ally is undoubtedly a big plus," he remarked.

Turkey is the seventh NATO member-state with which Lithuania has signed a military cooperation agreement. This helps the republic actively participate in the NATO-sponsored program Partnership for Peace and step up "the transition to the NATO standards in defense planning and adjustment of the military structure," he added.

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